

Monday

Enfranchise
Spectrum talks to Lynn
Seymour, who is
returning briefly to
classical ballet



Growth industry
Monday Page examines
the flowering of
vegetarianism

Right-off
Anne Sofer asks:
whatever happened to
the right to vote?

Far pavilion
Simon Barnes reports
from Hong Kong's rugby
sevens

Shell drops British Steel order

An £18m gas pipeline order, for which British Steel had opened its Humber mill, has been cancelled after Shell Oil found the pipe unacceptable. A Japanese consortium will take over the North Sea contract. **Back page**

EEC not broke after all

The European Commission avoided a confrontation with Britain over the £100m contribution Whitehall refused to pay. The Commission said it did not alter all the money urgently, as it was not broke. **Page 6**

Victim's award

An £8,000 award has been made to Mrs Clementine George who was beaten by police officers who forced their way into her home in Sydenham, south London. **Page 4**

Holiday curb

Package holidays could become scarce because the trend for late bookings has led to tour operators cutting back on their brochure offers, according to the travel firm Pickfords. **Page 3**

A-bomb call



Mr Bob Hawke, Australia's Labour Prime Minister faces left-wing opposition following the leak of a document saying Australia should make nuclear weapons if neighbouring countries obtain them. **Page 4**

Lying polygraph

Known criminals emerged as honest when they took part in a study to assess the accuracy of polygraphs. **Page 3**

Investors' fight

British investors who have lost money on commodity futures in the US are seeking redress through the American courts. **Family Money, page 24**

Lords defied

The National Union of Journalists is to defy a House of Lords ruling by again making official a strike at Dimpleby Newspapers.

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Letters: On public spending, from Mr G Sampson, and Professor M Bruce; Hong Kong, from Mr R MacFarquhar; the appointing bishops, from the Archbishop of York.
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George Walden draws a Falkland lesson from Hong Kong; Bernard Levin hails the flowering of the Arts Council's country garden; Roy Strong on the Elgar revival
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Jenkin may reduce council grants to community groups

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

The Government is considering a new legal curb on council spending which would restrict hundreds of controversial grants to women's, civil rights and other voluntary groups.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said at a press conference in London yesterday that the Government faced "a mounting volume of indignation" about such payments.

He spoke after introducing the Local Government (Interim Provisions) Bill which is meant to pave the way towards abolition of the Greater London Council and all six English metropolitan county councils in two years' time.

The Bill, which provides for cancellation of next year's elections to the threatened councils, was immediately attacked as "a dangerous constitutional assault". The metropolitan councils are in Tyne and Wear, South and West Yorkshire, West Midlands, Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

Mr Jenkin's announcement shows that the Government is considering or intending to use four methods of curbing spending through and by high-spending Labour councils in urban areas. They are:

Rate capping, the first phase of which will start in a year when the Government fixes legal ceilings for up to 20 of the highest-spending councils in England. They will include the GLC, several London boroughs

and Basildon, Essex. Mr Jenkin said yesterday that the list for the first phase would be drawn up "in the next four months or so".

Urban programme payments. A team of officials from Mr Jenkin's department and the Treasury is examining government payments worth £348m a year in grants to inner city areas.

Abolition of the GLC and metropolitan county councils. "The savings to be achieved from abolition ought to be substantial", Mr Jenkin said yesterday.

A new restriction on the power of councils to make grants to voluntary groups. Mr Jenkin explained his next move on that would depend on the final outcome of a court case brought by the Conservative-led Bromley Council in outer London. The council claims that the GLC's subscription to the recently-formed Association to London Authorities is unlawful because the association is politically-motivated.

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, leader of the GLC, said yesterday that it was "99 per cent certain" that his authority would appeal against last week's judgment that the subscription is unlawful. Mr Jenkin indicated that if final judgment went against the subscription the Government would use the decision as a base from which to reform the "free lunch" rule.

That gives councillors a power to raise revenue for general spending up to a value of 2p multiplied by the total rateable values of all properties in their areas. "We will want to look at the judgment very carefully because it could have relevance to quite a lot of other payments", Mr Jenkin said.

But his critics concentrated on the Bill, even though he offered them one definite and one possible concession. The most controversial clause in the Bill gives ministers the power to order the cancellation of elections due in the threatened councils in just over a year. The Bill does not include the key power to order abolition of the councils themselves in 1986.

Mr Jenkin said that he would not cancel the elections until a subsequent Bill authorizing abolition of the councils had become law. He also said that ministers might allow elections to the Inner London Education Authority to continue after abolition of the GLC.

Mrs Frances Morrell, leader of the ILEA, said she would have thought that what we are really seeing is a kind of genteel fascism in this country, wrapped up in a nice parcel of British humbug and British hypocrisy.

Mr Alan Greengross, leader of the minority Conservative group of GLC councillors, repeated the group's call for a small elected successor to the GLC instead of the nominated committees sought by ministers. **Advice to Liverpool, page 2**

US will be accused on Grenada invasion

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The United States Government is expected to be accused next week by an all-party committee of MPs of seriously misleading Britain over its intentions before Grenada was invaded last October.

That is likely to be one of the main conclusions in a report by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, to be published on Thursday, after an investigation of the Grenada crisis. The investigation included visits by MPs to the island and to neighbouring Barbados and Trinidad.

The committee, chaired by Sir Anthony Kershaw, Conservative MP for Stroud, will set out a detailed timetable of events before and during the crucial weekend leading up to the invasion early on Tuesday, October 25.

The Government learnt on October 22 from the Americans that they had been asked to contribute to a force being assembled by the Caribbean government. However, as Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, told the Commons in an emergency debate after the invasion, the US Government told Britain it concluded that it should proceed "very cautiously".

Campaign that won 8,612 medals for 7,000 troops

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States Army is very pleased with the 7,000 officers and other ranks who invaded the British Commonwealth's spice island of Grenada. It has therefore awarded 8,612 medals.

About 50 decorations have gone to personnel who got no closer to the fighting than the Pentagon. Staff and support troops who never actually left American soil have also been honoured.

It has awarded 275 decorations for valour, for combat deaths, or for wounds. It gave 3,337 medals for individual performance, including 4,581 commendation medals, 2,495 achievement medals, 681 Bronze Stars and a variety of other decorations. The 82nd Airborne Division walked away with 6,708 individual medals.

The Army said its award system is "a valuable and effective leadership tool to build unit morale and esprit". The Navy, Marines and Air Force, which had a much smaller role, have been far less lavish: between them they have awarded barely a handful of individual medals.

But all the services are expected to distribute armed forces expeditionary medals to the men, and a few women, who were on or near the island during the campaign. That could benefit 19,600 people, including the 10,000-odd officers and sailors who were on board the carrier *Independence* and other ships that stood off Grenada. The Navy has made it clear that no individual awards will be given to staff officers.

Unions set for Nissan no-strike agreement

By Our Labour Reporter

The two big car industry unions are prepared to make unprecedented concessions to ensure that the Nissan Motor Company of Japan expands from its modest pilot plant at Washington New Town, Tyne and Wear.

On offer is what amounts to a no-strike agreement on behalf of both the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

The proposals, already put forward by local union officials, may have influenced the company to build its plant employing up to 500 people and producing 24,000 cars, in the North-east. A short list of three sites also included Immingham, Humberside and Shotton, North Wales.

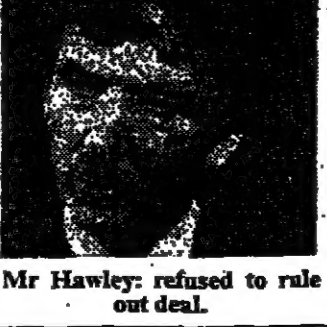
Mr Joseph Mills, the north-east regional secretary of the transport workers' union, also told the company that his union was prepared to negotiate a single-union agreement.

The no-strike offer, which basically involves binding arbitration in disputes, will infuriate left-wing unionists and labour leaders in the areas which Nissan rejected.

All these concessions are unheard of in the rest of the motor industry and will be studied with some interest by the bigger companies.

Mr Grenville Hawley, national secretary of the transport workers union, yesterday refused to rule out a no-strike agreement. He said: "We will be discussing the whole matter with Nissan".

Nissan counters fears, page 2



Mr Hawley: refused to rule out deal.

Relief at end of Jordan visit

From Christopher Walker
Amman, Jordan

To the intense relief of local British diplomats, led by the newly-knighted Ambassador, Sir Alan Urwick, the Queen yesterday safely completed her most dangerous royal tour, the political repercussions of which can be expected to reverberate throughout the Middle East for months to come.

The severe problems which the timing of the visit and the Queen's stated sympathy with the plight of the Palestinians will cause with Israel come immediately to the fore next week when her first official engagement is a meeting with President Chaim Herzog of Israel, who will present a counter invitation for a tour of Israel.

[During a meeting at 10, Downing Street yesterday, President Herzog invited Mrs Thatcher to visit Israel. His formal invitation to the Queen is likely to be delivered when he has lunch with her at Windsor Castle on Monday. (Rodney Cowton writes.)]

The security threat which has clouded the five-day tour and reduced almost to nil the Queen's chances of contacts with ordinary Jordanians - more than 60 per cent are Palestinians - was symbolized by the sun glinting off the three complex anti-missile devices fitted to the engines of the royal TriStar as it soared away from Amman's desert airport open jeeps mounted with heavy machine-guns and marksmen silhouetted against the rocky backdrop ringed the installation.

Before the farewell 21-gun salute (fired from cannons pointed not facing the near by Israel border), Mr Michael Shea, the Queen's press secretary, expressed concern at the way in which Middle East experts have linked the tour with Wednesday's assassination of a British diplomat in Athens.

But he was at a complete loss to offer any alternative theory for the murder, or the threat of further violence against British targets by terrorists believed to be acting for the Syrian-backed Abu Nidal group.

It was learnt that, even as the Queen was bravely attempting to invest her final engagements with as great an impression of normality as possible under the trying circumstances, security was being tightened at all British diplomatic missions in the region, and those in other parts



Smiling in the rain: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arriving at Heathrow from Jordan yesterday.

of the world - particularly Europe - where Arab terrorists are known to operate, often in cooperation with locally-based left-wing extremists.

A final judgement on the overall success of the tour will have to involve a weighing of its triumph in personal terms for the Queen and in cementing

Continued on back page, col 1

Aslef in move to spread strikes

By Barrie Clement
and Paul Routledge

Unions moved further towards their most serious confrontation with the Government yesterday as train drivers' leaders became the first transport union to call a halt to all movement of coal and coke in Britain.

But Mr Bill Sirs, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said he did not want to see his members "crucified on some one else's altar", after a warning from the British Steel Corporation that an escalation of the pit strike would cause "irreparable damage" to the industry.

Mr Sirs' executive meets next week to decide whether to back the miners.

The Central Electricity Generating Board indicated yesterday that, despite high coal stocks, electricity prices could rise if the strike continued. However, a spokesman added that there would be no power cuts until at least the autumn.

Aslef's decision to stop coal and coke movements was coupled with an instruction to its 24,000 members not to cross picket lines. Any resulting disruption of supplies will almost certainly lead to court injunctions to stop unlawful secondary action.

The train drivers' backing endorsed the recommendation of Thursday's meeting of the general secretaries of seven big unions.

Leaders of the National Union of Railwaymen on Monday and the executive of the Transport and General Workers' Union on Tuesday are likely to follow suit. Mr Jim Slater of the National Union of Seamen, has said his union is already implementing the policy.

Mr Sirs' comments are a blow to the solidarity of the unions involved but are not unexpected. Some observers believe Mr Sirs' executive may take a different attitude next week.

Last night Mr Robert Haslam, British Steel's chairman, said the repercussions of a

Continued on back page, col 8

Disruption fear after rugby tour decision

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The Rugby Football Union, the ruling body of the game in England, agreed yesterday to send a team to South Africa in May. It will be the second tour by England to the republic, though the British Lions have toured twice since the last South African tour to this country (in 1969-70) and Ireland toured there in 1981.

The decision provoked protests from anti-apartheid groups. Mr Robert Hughes, Labour MP for Aberdeen North and chairman of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, said: "This depressingly predictable

decision will cause outrage throughout sport in this country and internationally the repercussions could be very serious indeed."

Those repercussions may be aimed largely at the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, a year in which the Lions are scheduled to tour South Africa. This year's Olympic Games in Los Angeles seem less likely to suffer disruption, though in 1976, after New Zealand made a rugby tour to South Africa, there was a black boycott of the Montreal Games.

Mr Sam Ramsamy, spokesman for the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee, said lobbying would begin to bar England from the Games in Edinburgh and criticized the Commonwealth Games Council for England for not making a stronger protest. He did not rule out some form of protest at the final of the RFU's county championship at Twickenham today.

The RFU committee, meeting at the London Hilton Hotel, voted for the tour by 44-6. The president, Ron Jacobs, who abstained, said the union could not take responsibility for other

sporting bodies, to whose decisions they were not a party. "When you take decisions in life you often upset someone," Mr Jacobs said.

Sir Shridath Ramphal, Commonwealth secretary-general, said the decision would be deployed throughout the Commonwealth and beyond. "It will not only damage international sporting relations and do great harm to rugby itself but it will also come as a setback to the wider cause of multi-racialism in South Africa."

More reactions, page 29

£6m grants shift by Arts Council

By David Hewson

The Arts Council is to switch £6m of grants from London to 12 key areas of Britain in an attempt to restore the balance of arts backing between the capital and the regions.

The decision, announced yesterday after what the council described as an unprecedented consultation process, was criticized by those groups which will lose their grants and the Opposition arts spokesman, Mr Norman Buchanan.

It will mean the disappearance of one of the capital's four main orchestras, the end of grants to 15 theatre companies and a reduction in the council's investment in literature.

But it will result in £2.2m more for regional arts associations, a new orchestra for eastern England and an extra £2m for new developments in regional drama.

Report in detail, page 2
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Spares for Iran anger Shultz

From Nicholas Ashford
Washington

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, has sharply criticized Britain for providing military spare parts to Iran.

In an interview with *The Times* Mr Shultz described the provision of military spares by Britain to the Khomenei regime as "unhelpful".

Britain's decision to provide spares for military equipment sold to Iran before the overthrow of the Shah has been the subject of secret high-level contacts between London and Washington for several months. Britain maintains it is only supplying non-lethal spares to Iran.

Mr Shultz's criticism of Britain's action - the first public comment he has made on the subject - reflects growing American concern at the deteriorating situation in the Gulf.

In the interview Mr Shultz also discussed American policy in the Middle East. A full account will appear in *The Times* on Monday.

Part of Sutherland art collection may be sold

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Britain's art world is deeply concerned that the delicate balance of the system protecting the country's heritage could be destroyed by plans to sell off part of a great private collection.

The Duke of Sutherland is understood to be planning to sell some of the paintings on loan to the National Gallery of Scotland in Edinburgh.

The value of the paintings on loan is estimated at £60m but there is no evidence of what portion is for sale.

Fund of its resources, leaving it unable to bid for other important works. The fund has had to announce that it cannot find money to save a valuable painting attributed to Duccio for the nation.

The duke's action could be the start of the break-up of his historic collection, one of the most important in private hands in the United Kingdom.

The prices which might be paid by overseas collectors, such as the Getty Museum of California, could tempt some of the paintings out of the country and start a stampede of sales by other British owners. That would rip apart the fragile

system for keeping the paintings in this country.

A surge in exports is signalled by report of the Reviewing Committee in the Export of Works of Art, published today.

The Duke has declined to comment on the sale.

The sale of Sutherland paintings is thought to be one of the key reasons behind the National Heritage Memorial Fund's decision last week not to finance the purchase of the fourteenth-century Crucifixion by the Manchester City Art Galleries.

Manchester is trying to save the painting from export to the Getty Museum with a price tag of £1.5m.

Mr Brian Lang, secretary of the fund, said that the decision had been taken after a recent and highly important commitment by the fund towards the purchase of paintings. He said that he hoped it would be possible to disclose details of that commitment soon.

Sir Peter Wakefield, secretary of the National Art Collections Fund, also referred to the overriding importance of the heritage fund's commitment. The national fund voted just after Christmas to offer Manchester £500,000 towards the painting.

It had been understood that the two funds had come to a private pact and both intended to support the purchase of the Crucifixion. Sir Peter said that the heritage fund's new commitment had "blown up" since the national fund took its decision three months ago.

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Arts Council grants

Shift of emphasis from London to the regions divides arts world

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Arts Council announced the most fundamental shift in state funding for English arts in its 39-year history yesterday, moving £6m out of London and the South-east into 12 strategic areas.

The policy, announced in a document named *The Glory of the Garden* after a Rudyard Kipling poem, left the arts world divided.

London arts organizations and other companies now under threat from their present grants run out in 12 months were bitterly critical of what they described as a political move.

But regional arts associations, which stand to receive up to £2.2m extra, gave the document a muted welcome, mindful, perhaps, that they should not praise too highly a windfall which comes at the expense of other arts groups.

The strategy will close one of the four main London orchestras, so far unnamed, or send it to Nottingham or eastern England, withdraw grants from 15 theatre companies and reduce the council's interests in subsidizing literature.

Opera comes off the lightest of all the arts, although it is the most heavily subsidized at the moment. One company, Opera 80, will lose its grant.

According to Arts Council figures, the body gave an average £19 subsidy on every opera ticket sold last year, compared with £2.80 for drama companies and £7.50 for dance.

But the Royal Court Theatre, one of the best-known names under threat of losing its grant, won a kind of reprieve, against the wishes of some of the more senior figures in the council.

The Royal Court's future remains unassured: it will receive grants for a further year and will then be asked to find new funds from Kensington and Chelsea Council, which has consistently refused to back it in the past.

Mr Max Stafford-Clark, the theatre's artistic director, said: "I am delighted we have won this battle, but it is clear that the council wants to erode the level of grant to us over the years. This document is still a serious threat to the Royal Court."

The move to close the Royal Court was defeated at Wednesday's crucial meeting, one of several closures proposed at the session which were eventually dropped because of opposition within the council.

Mr Luke Rittner, the council's secretary-general, said the document had demanded some difficult decisions.

"The council would obviously hope that the withdrawals that are taking place will not do lasting damage to the arts and arts provision in London as a whole, but I can entirely see that there will be people living in London who see it as a concerted campaign against them."

"It isn't, but if you are trying to shift emphasis then the first step will be an unfortunate one," Mr Rittner said.

Sir William Rees-Mogg, the council chairman denied that London would be markedly worse off through the cuts.

"Any Londoner who thinks that he can get more arts living

anywhere else is welcome to try."

He said that the new policy was primarily aimed at bringing the opportunity for experiencing the arts outside London nearer to the London level.

"The Arts Council does not want to damage London, which is one of the greatest world cities of the arts - but it does want to narrow the gap between London and the rest of Britain," Sir William said.

It had become clear that four

anywhere else is welcome to try."

Mr Val May, director of the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford, which loses all its £108,000 grant, said that the company would look to other sources to maintain its future.

"It is a small grant, never more than 18 per cent of our annual turnover, which has been used to such good effect that it has been a major generator of work for national touring and frequently the London stage."

Mr Norman Buchan, Opposition spokesman on the arts, said that some of the cuts were directly political and he criticized the council for not breaking away from "the domination of the London-based centres of excellence."

The strategy will focus on 12 areas centred on Birmingham, Bristol, Ipswich/Norwich, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Nottingham, Plymouth, Sheffield and Southampton, which account for more than 80 per cent of the population of England.

One of the most vociferous critics of the plan is Dr Jonathan Miller, who chaired a meeting of many of those affected by the cuts. He said that it was not an equitable redistribution of funds.

"Many of these cuts are directed by political considerations with a view to extinguishing voices which, in the view of the Arts Council, are inimical to the political views of this particular Government."

The decisions reflected the view of "a prosperous middle class, Dr Miller added.

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Leading article, page 9



Mr Luke Rittner (left), council secretary-general, and Sir William Rees-Mogg, chairman.

main orchestras were too many for the capital, although it had yet to be decided which one of the four, the London Symphony, the Royal Philharmonic, the London Philharmonic or the Philharmonia, would be offered the choice of going out of business or moving to the provinces.

The writer John McGrath, founder of the 7:84 theatre company, which loses its grant, said that the company might have been singled out for attack because the Labour leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, is a member of its board.

The company is about to go on a tour of Canada paid for by the British Council. The cut was "a petty, vindictive, act of political spite," Mr McGrath said.

Mr McGrath said the company, which loses its grant, said that the company might have been singled out for attack because the Labour leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, is a member of its board.

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Developments in the new strategy

ART: With local authorities the Arts Council will seek to help existing public galleries in strategic areas to develop their facilities from a £500,000 central fund. "This development will help to restore contemporary art to its rightful place within the country's art galleries."

DANCE: A development fund of £450,000 will raise dancers' salaries other than in the Royal Ballet and the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet.

Two London touring groups.

GRANTS LOST FROM 1985/86	
MUSIC	
1984/85 grant	
Easton Authorities	£105,000
Orchestra Association	60,000
New Opera Company	46,000
Handel Opera Company	45,000
(from April 1986)	
English Sinfonia	20,000
Haydn-Mozart Society	36,000
King's Lynn Festival	21,000
Leeds Musical Festival	20,000
York Festival	7,500
Strut Quadrennial Festival	70,000
	£430,500

Janet Smith and Mantis Dance, will receive new support for provincial tours. There will be new money for black and Asian dance, including increased funds for the black dance company Phoenix in Leeds.

The council will look to the Royal Ballet to establish regular annual links with three regional centres and to Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet to develop its links with Birmingham.

DRAMA: A total of £2m is allocated for new developments, three quarters of it in the

MUSIC	
Basingstoke	£72,000
Horseshoe Theatre	90,000
London Church Theatre	87,500
Chester Gateway Theatre	73,500
Croydon Alternatives Co	73,500
Guildford Theatre	108,000
Amad Theatre	65,000
London King's Head Theatre	87,000
London Wakefield Tricycle Theatre	132,500
Amad Theatre (White Rose)	148,000
Homecoming Theatre Trust	75,000
Worthing Connaught Theatre	47,000
CARST Productions	44,500
M6 Theatre Co	28,500
Norfolk Theatre Co	92,500
7:84 Theatre Co (England)	72,000
Tamba Theatre Co	72,000
	£1,214,500

strategic areas, with further funds subject to equal amounts being raised locally. The development may centre on one or more companies.

A further £1.5m will be used to pay for new writing, children and young people's theatre, and black and Asian drama. £500,000 of it in the first phase.

MUSIC: The council will discuss with one of the London orchestras the idea of transferring its base to eastern England, possibly Nottingham, or establishing a new orchestra in the region, at a cost of £500,000. A

OPERA	
Opera 80	£235,000
TRAINING	
Baroness Institute of Choreology	£80,000
City University	48,000
National Centre for Choreology	22,500
Royal Northern College of Music	22,500
English Centre of International P.E.T.	£7,900
(National Book League grant cut by 25 per cent)	
LITERATURE	
English Centre of International P.E.T.	£7,900
(National Book League grant cut by 25 per cent)	
ART	
Reduction in subsidies to Kettles Yard (Cambridge), Abbot's (Bristol) and Kettles Yard (Birmingham).	

further £200,000 will go to putting the first regional orchestras on a firmer financial footing.

EDUCATION: The present budget will be doubled to £310,000 next year.

REGIONAL ARTS ASSOCIATIONS: The 122 associations will receive at least £1.2m next year as part of a development programme totalling £2.2m. The way the money will be spent will be subject to consultation between the regions and the council over the next 12 months.

ARTS CENTRES	
Word and Action	£5,000
Wimborne Dorset	6,000
Major Mustard, Birmingham	6,000
LITERATURE	
English Centre of International P.E.T.	£7,900
(National Book League grant cut by 25 per cent)	
ART	
Reduction in subsidies to Kettles Yard (Cambridge), Abbot's (Bristol) and Kettles Yard (Birmingham).	

Anarchists plan repeat of protest to stop City

The organizers of Thursday's "Stop the City" demonstration congratulated themselves yesterday on the impact of their protest and planned to repeat it in September.

More than 400 people were arrested, several windows were broken, cars were damaged and two policemen were slightly hurt as the City was disrupted by an unprecedented alliance of punks, anarchists, anti-nuclear protesters and cyclists, and animal liberation, anti-apartheid and gay rights groups.

The protest alarmed City workers, and kept several buildings, such as Barclays Bank and the Bank of England, under virtual siege for much of the day.

The events diverted police, press and public attention from a much larger, peaceful march by council workers and trade unionists to protest against the Government's decision to abolish metropolitan councils.

As police and insurance companies counted the cost yesterday, anarchist groups based in south London squats emerged as the prime movers behind much of the disruption. London Greenpeace, the environmental group, was behind last September's "Stop the City" protest but Thursday's event was much more widely organized.

Anarchist groups held meetings earlier this year in various cities to coordinate their action. In London, their activities seem to have centred on the Anarchist Bookshop in Raiton Road, Brixton, which handles publications such as *Black Cross*, and *Free London*, and the Ambulance Station Collective Squat in the Old Kent Road, which produces a newspaper called *Crowbar*.

The organizers tend not to publicize their names but quite an effective grapevine operates in London squats.

Miss Amanda Speed, aged 23, a theatre director, answered a telephone number advertising legal advice to anyone arrested and told *The Times* yesterday: "I think the demonstration was a great success. The last one was directed against the arms trade but this was more general, against exploitation of all sorts by banks. We went into several banks with leaflets and biscuits and were quite pleased with the response."

Correction

The 394 arrests reported in connection with demonstrations in London yesterday did not, as implied, result from the protest march by trade unionists against the abolition of metropolitan authorities. They were associated with a separate protest in the City.

Powell accuses Prior of betraying Ulster

Mr Enoch Powell accused the Government last night of betraying the people of Northern Ireland and made a personal attack on Mr James Prior, the Secretary of State (Philip Webster writes).

The Official Unionist MP again claimed that the Government of the Irish Republic and the Northern Ireland Office were conspiring to set up an all-Ireland state, and spoke of "treachery's varying rewards". Sarah Tisdall leaked a government document and was jailed for six months, but it was not so if the treachery was to be committed at the Government's own prompting.

Mr Powell told the central

committee of his South Down constituency association, that Mr Prior and the Northern Ireland Office were desperate. They knew the Ulster Unionists would not be persuaded "to play along with the plan for betraying Ulster which is being feverishly hatched between Dr FitzGerald and the Northern Ireland Office."

He said: "Those who operate on the principle that every man has his price... are handing bribes and promises out."

But, he said, bribery was rarely unaccompanied by bullying. If Northern Ireland could not be bribed into submission, it was to be bullied into submission.

Davey death 'accidental'

The coroner investigating the death in police custody of Mr James Davey refused yesterday to accept the inquest jury's verdict of accidental death with the rider that the police had used unreasonable force.

Mr Charles Kenderdine, instructed the jury to reconsider and restated the need to distinguish between reasonable and unreasonable force in choosing between accidental death, unlawful killing and an open verdict.

The jury agreed to delete the rider and return a straightforward accidental death verdict.

Mr Michael Mansfield, for the Davey family, said: "The verdict is a contradiction in terms."

It was the fifteenth day of the hearing and the jury had first split 8 to 2 on decision.

Then came the verdict that Mr Davey, after a struggle with police, died from pressure on the neck which caused brain damage.



Crash start: The ship that will head for the Antarctic backing off after ramming the Thames wall near Tower Bridge. It berthed yesterday ready to begin the two-year "In the Footsteps of Scott" expedition in August (Photograph: Tony Weaver).

Liverpool is told by Jenkin to borrow

By Hugh Clayton and David Walker

Liverpool City Council can postpone bankruptcy by borrowing, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment said yesterday. He said that Thursday's "defeat" of a potentially illegal rate increase would increase confidence among lenders.

But Mr Jenkin told a press conference in London that the council's failure to agree a rate for the financial year that begins tomorrow might expose controlling Labour councillors to make a legal rate. It might ultimately have to be pursued by the Attorney-General. However, he said: "We are miles from that position."

Court action might also be started by an auditor or council officer.

Although the council could not issue rate demands, it would receive rents and qualify for government rate support grant.

Mr Jenkin said that he was not seeking powers to place administration in the hands of government-appointed commissioners.

The next step lay with councillors. The controlling Labour group had temporarily lost control of the council on Thursday to a coalition of Conservatives, Liberals and Labour opponents of the group's budget plans.

"It rests with those who wrested that control to move forward," Mr Jenkin said.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Labour Party leader, said again yesterday that he rejected tactics adopted by Labour leaders of Liverpool Council. He blamed the Government for the city's social and financial difficulties, but said that they would be worsened if Labour councillors were replaced with commissioners.

At a press conference in Manchester, Mr Kinnock advised the Labour group against repeating Thursday's budget

attempt if its majority rises after the elections on May 1.

The policy adopted by the party conference was to protect jobs, services and the needy, Mr Kinnock said. Labour councillors could best do that by staying in office.

Liverpool's 30 Liberal and 19 Conservative councillors yesterday demanded an emergency council session in a fortnight to agree a budget. But the choice of the date rests with the council chairman, Mr Hugh Dalton, a Labour councillor who voted consistently on Thursday with Mr Derek Hatton, the *Militant* adherent and Labour's effective leader.

Mr Hatton's tactics are to delay consideration until after the elections for a third of the city's 99 councillors.

Mr Hatton said: "We are now saying to the people of the city: 'you are involved in a local referendum'."

Although the legal authority of the city treasurer, Mr Michael Reddington to spend money in the new financial year remains sketchy, it seems that the cash flow will be kept up. Labour plans, apparently legally, to use a finance committee meeting on Tuesday to authorize minimum spending on debt interest, wages and other items.

Short-term loans are likely to be available through the Public Works Loan Board, a government agency.

Mr John Hamilton, nominal council leader, said: "We have sufficient finance to keep the city solvent until after the elections in May, provided the Government does not withdraw the rates grant."

It is open to the district auditor for Liverpool to apply to the High Court for a writ requiring the council to set a rate. However, Mr Les Stanford, employed by the Audit Commission rather than by the Department of the Environment, gave no clues yesterday as to his intentions.

City move threatens councils

By Christopher Dunn

Dealers in the City of London's money markets are now starting to black-borrowings by Liverpool City Council, the troubled local authority which failed to produce a Budget on Thursday, in a move which threatens to disrupt the workings of the entire local authority sector of the markets.

A leading money market trader is refusing to deal in Liverpool bonds, and there are no takers for mortgages offered by the Council. Some institutions are refusing to lend to the council through the money markets.

The moves are potentially damaging to the whole mechanism of local authority borrowings as most negotiations should take no account of the names attached to bonds. Normally, they concentrate on the interest yield on offer and the price. Discrimination against particular local authority borrowers could increase substantially the cost of borrowing by certain local authorities.

The authorities, however, were keen to play down fears in money markets, pointing out that income from rates amounted to only about a quarter of the council's total income. For 1983/84, rate income was worth an estimated £141m, compared with a rate support grant of £108m. Although there was a general awareness in official circles that money markets were refusing to touch Liverpool, it was emphasized that the council had enough liquidity to keep operating for some time.

Mr Philip Kelly, Liverpool City Council's deputy treasurer, said yesterday: "We have enough cash to keep going for the time being but we can't put any timescale on it. There are too many imponderables to make any meaningful forecasts."

Leading article, page 9

Labour is accused of 'big lie' over police

By Philip Webster

The Home Secretary said yesterday that the Labour Party was making a carefully planned attempt to shake public confidence in the role of law and the police.

In a fierce denunciation of Labour's attitude to the miners' dispute, Mr Leon Brittan accused it of perpetrating "the big lie" that it was the police, and not the pickets, who were challenging principles of freedom and democracy, and that it was from the policeman, who upheld the law, rather than from the criminal, who broke it, that the threat to the public came.

Mr Brittan, speaking in Gwent, said that the big lie always attracted unscrupulous politicians - repeat what was manifestly untrue and often enough their thinking went, and the public would believe you.

Mr Brittan's remarks indicated that the Government, which is maintaining its refusal to intervene in the dispute despite the decision of other big unions to support the miners, has now decided to make Labour criticism of the police a political issue. The party's national executive on Wednesday blamed the police for contributing to violence.

Mr Brittan said that to read the comments of Labour spokesmen one would think Britain was on the way to becoming a police state. Those who made such foolish allegations should stop and think: they should remember that it was all too easy to devalue the political currency by grave accusations against those in whose impartial enforcement of the rule of law the public trusted.

Labour's "shabby tactics" were far from new, Mr Brittan said. For months Labour politicians had been attacking Government measures in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill to give the police the powers they needed to protect the citizen. Thousands of pounds of ratepayers' money had been poured by left wing councils into propaganda against the Bill. "No innuendo has been too malicious, no allegation about the Government's intentions too wild."

Mr Brittan said the public would not be fooled: they expected the law of the land to be upheld.

Unlike many Labour MPs who want him to take a higher profile in the dispute, Mr Neil Kinnock remains anxious to avoid raising the political temperature. He does not intend to intervene publicly but he has made clear his belief that the NUM should stop its internal arguments because of the damage that public strife can cause the Labour movement.

Mr John Gummer, the Conservative chairman, said yesterday that the dispute was between the coal board and the miners' union and they must find their own way out of it. The only part the state had to play was to ensure that people wanting to go to work should be allowed to do so, he said in Leeds.

Surveyors sued over delays at Trocadero site

Richard Ellis, the chartered surveyors and estate agents, is being sued because of increasing costs and delays in the development of the Trocadero site at Piccadilly Circus (our Property Correspondent writes).

A spokesman for Richard Ellis confirmed yesterday that the writ from Electricity Supply Nominees, which is funding the 200,000 square foot retailing and entertainment complex, had been received. ESN is the electricity supply industry's pension fund, and despite the writ, Richard Ellis will continue as joint letting agents and managing agents for the scheme.

It is likely that resolution of the dispute will take a matter of years. It revolved around the building costs of the scheme, which were originally estimated at £19m and have increased to about £40m, it is understood.

The project is running about 18 months late, and planning difficulties are among the reasons for the delay.

The Trocadero is nearly finished and is due to be opened in June, containing extensive restaurant, entertainment and shopping facilities.

Overseas selling prices
Australia \$1.50, Belgium 8.00, Canada 92.75, Denmark 8.00, France 6.00, Germany 1.00, Greece 1.00, Holland 1.00, Italy 1.00, Japan 1.00, Korea 1.00, Luxembourg 1.00, Malaysia 1.00, Mexico 1.00, New Zealand 1.00, Norway 1.00, Portugal 1.00, Singapore 1.00, Spain 1.00, Sweden 1.00, Switzerland 1.00, Taiwan 1.00, Thailand 1.00, USA 1.00, West Germany 1.00

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Polygraphic lie detectors are inaccurate and unreliable, scientists say

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor, and Tim Jones

People with criminal records were portrayed as individuals of shining virtue when they took part in the latest research to assess the accuracy of the polygraph lie detector.

The study was one of the most extensive undertaken and its findings, published in the latest issue of *Nature*, are reported as the Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham is due on Monday to begin using the polygraph on civil servants requiring positive vetting.

The scientists who carried out the study say: "with the increasing use of polygraphic lie detection in the United Kingdom and the United States it has become a matter of urgency to assess the accuracy and reliability of the technique."

They therefore extended earlier mock theft lie detection studies "from the laboratory to the field" and interrogated 50 convicted thieves and 50 innocent people.

Dr Benjamin Kleinmuntz and Dr Julian Szucko, of the University of Illinois at Chicago, demonstrate that the fallibility of the polygraph rests as much with the wrong interpretation of the records by the operator as with the instrument itself. They say that

the devices have unacceptably high error rates.

The people involved in the experiment were acknowledged criminals and individuals from groups who had in the past undergone questioning for a theft to which the actual thief eventually confessed.

The polygraph data of each of the truthful and untruthful suspects were then given to six polygraph interpreters. The paper in *Nature* presents a comparison of the judgments of the six interpreters.

They were asked to separate the guilty from the innocent individuals by their differences in physiological reactions, such as a change of heart rate and skin resistance due to sweating, when responding to two questions: have you ever stolen anything? and did you steal X amount?

The interpreters were more likely to label a suspect untruthful than truthful, and the results show that the misclassification rate of innocent people was as high as 50 per cent.

The error rate was even more pronounced when the interpreters were subsequently instructed to base their decisions on the results of the physiological measurements

plus information obtained during the interrogation. The mistakes caused two out of three innocent suspects to be judged guilty.

The disclosures come when the Civil Service unions are challenging the validity of polygraphs. One of the leading British authorities on the subject, Dr Douglas Carroll, of Birmingham University, has advised civil servants that the polygraph machine has only a slightly better chance than even of being accurate.

He told a meeting in Cheltenham this week: "The device is inaccurate and likely to jeopardize the lives of conscientious and loyal civil servants. Its introduction should be resisted by all the trade union members."

He said that a "trained" mole could pass the test without any problem. "There is a bias inherent in the machine because of the stressful nature of the tests and the questions that are asked."

Dr Carroll said that unless the trade unions successfully resisted its introduction into GCHQ it would be operated and introduced by institutions throughout Britain.

Scramble to beat tax on building

The Government's Budget proposal to impose 15 per cent value-added tax on building alterations from June 1, is causing a "mad scramble" for work to be done before the deadline, the Building Employers' Confederation says. (Our Property Correspondent writes.)

Many builders are fully committed for the next two months and are refusing further work, so that some projects are being cancelled because of the extra tax.

The confederation has called for the date to be deferred so that contractors and clients can organize their finances and work to avoid halting projects.

The Federation of Master Builders is also worried by the effects of the proposals. It has asked the Treasury to agree that contracts signed before Budget day should not be subject to the tax even though the work may not have been done by June 1.

If the Treasury rejects the compromise, the federation will consider suggesting changes to the Finance Bill.

Assistance for those wanting double glazing or mirror-fronted wardrobes before the tax is imposed has come from the Glass and Glazing Federation.

The Federation said that householders who order and pay for work in full before June 1 can have their advance payment fully protected even if the installation is done after June 1.

£97,600 award for widow

Mrs Maimona Siddia, of Karachi, whose husband, Muhammad Bawani, aged 49, died after suffering brain damage during an eye operation at Lambeth Hospital, south London, in November, 1975, was awarded £97,600 damages in the High Court yesterday.

A consultant anaesthetist, Mr John Mathias, and the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Health Authority admitted negligence but had contested the amount of damages.

Husband will not be charged

The husband of Janice Weston, the solicitor, whose battered body was found by the A1 last September, will not be charged with her killing, Cambridge police said yesterday in a statement by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr Anthony Reginald Weston, aged 39, of Addison Road, west London, has been on police bail.

Actor banned from driving

Sir Michael Hordern, the actor, was fined £150 yesterday and disqualified for one year after admitting a drink driving offence.

Sir Michael, aged 72, had 83 milligrams of alcohol per 100 milligrams of blood, more than twice the legal limit, when he was tested on an intoximeter. Bow St Magistrates' Court was told. He was tested after a minor collision in the Mall, London.

Open verdict on Caroline Hogg

An open verdict was recorded yesterday at Market Bosworth, Leicestershire, on Caroline Hogg, aged five, of Beech Lane, Portobello, Edinburgh, whose body was found 300 miles away from home at a lay-by in Leicestershire last July.

The child's body was so badly decomposed it was impossible to find the cause of death.



Brainy bugs: 1984 is set to become the year of the wood-louse, according to Dr Terry Glanville of Honiton, Devon, who has devised a 10-lane race track to raise money for charity from racing *Armadillidium*, whose intelligence he rates highly. Dr Glanville made his discovery during experiments for his Open University degree.

Gold diver cleared of secrets charges

Mr Keith Jessop, a deep sea diver, who salvaged Soviet gold valued at millions of pounds from the sunken wartime cruiser, HMS Edinburgh, was cleared on a judge's direction yesterday of three charges under the Official Secrets Act, 1911.

He was accused of receiving classified government information about two rival diving firms competing to salvage the Edinburgh, which was torpedoed off the coast of the Soviet Union in 1942.

Mr Jessop, aged 49, of Keighley, West Yorkshire, still faces a charge of plotting to defraud his two rivals by misleading a government panel set up to award the salvage contract. He denies the charge.

He and his Salvage Association contact, Mr John Jackson, are accused of saying "nasty and false things" about the rivals, Risdon Beazley and a Norwegian company, Stolt-Neilsen.

Mr Jackson faced two charges of leaking government documents. Judge Tudor Price, the Common Serjeant, also directed he should be found not guilty of both.

Mr Jackson, aged 56, of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, still faces the conspiracy charge with Mr Jessop. After a day-and-a-half of legal submissions at the Central Criminal Court, the judge said he had decided there was no evidence that a contract existed between the Salvage Association and the Department of Trade.

He said: "The fundamental basis of the allegation is that Mr Jackson was employed by the Salvage Association which held a contract on behalf of Her Majesty. In this case it is by no means easy to establish whether the association held a contract with the Department of Trade on the relevant dates."

Minister to hasten drug safety checks

By Nicholas Timmins

The Government is to examine ways of speeding up the process by which drugs which pose safety risks can be withdrawn from the market.

The announcement comes after a decision by Ciba-Geigy to appeal to the Medicines Commission over a recommendation by the Committee on

Safety of Medicines that its anti-arthritis drug oxyphenbutazone, marketed as Tanderil and Tandacore, should be withdrawn.

Under the present rules, drug companies can object to decisions to withdraw a drug first to the committee and then to the commission.

Scargill challenged on pensions

Criticism by Mr Arthur Scargill, president of miners' union, of the way the £3,000m miners' pension scheme had been managed were challenged in the High Court in London yesterday.

Mr Hugh Jenkins, the fund's investment director, said in written evidence that it would be unfair if the impression were

to be gained that the fund's managers had been backward in investing directly in industrial or development projects in Britain.

His evidence is being read to the judge, Sir Robert Megarry, in the dispute between the National Coal Board and the National Union of Mineworkers' representatives on the fund

management committee over how best to use its investment assets.

They are in deadlock after the union side blocked the latest investment strategy proposals, saying it wanted no more direct investments overseas.

The hearing continues on Monday.

Potato prices stay below autumn forecast

By Robin Young

Despite the well-publicized increase in potato prices, shop prices have still not reached the 20p a pound predicted last autumn. The red varieties, Cara, Desiree and King Edwards, are generally available at 19p a pound.

Wholesalers feel the price is unlikely to go beyond 20p, because imported new potatoes from Cyprus and Egypt are 18p to 25p a pound. About 84,000 tonnes have arrived, half as many again as had been imported at the same time in 1983.

Belgium has also trebled its exports to Britain over the past year, and has shipped 21,000 tonnes so far.

Home-grown potato reserves are 16 per cent lower than they were at this time last year, because the 1983 harvest was cut by a fifth by the wet spring. The Potato Marketing Board insists that there should be enough British potatoes to see

the season out. Warm, dry weather earlier this month enabled farmers to plant extra acres of new potatoes which should be available earlier than usual.

Farmers are getting an average of £174 a tonne from wholesalers, compared with less than £55 a year ago, when a glut forced prices below the cost of production. The farm price has risen £60 in the past three months, and ranges above £230 for premium qualities.

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF LOOSE POTATOES, WEEK 12		
Year	1978	1979
1978	12.3p	9.9p
1979	4.8p	5.7p
1980	6.8p	6.8p
1981	6.1p	6.1p
1982	10.2p	7.4p
1983	7.4p	7.4p
1984	13.2p	

Source: Potato Marketing Board

Use placenta to heal wounds, Lancet says

A leading article in *The Lancet* today suggests a cheap and efficient dressing to heal wounds and burns (Nicholas Timmins writes). The placenta, expected after a birth, should be widely used in that way, it says.

The afterbirth has an antibacterial effect, reducing the risk of infection in, for example, chronic leg ulcers and burns, and promotes the growth of healthy new skin tissue the article says.

In wounds which penetrate only part way through the skin surface, the afterbirth can be left in place on the wound to separate naturally when the

wound is fully healed. In full thickness wounds it can be changed every 48 to 72 hours.

The article says that the treatment of such raw wounds accounts for a substantial part of any health budget.

"With health service finances increasingly stretched to provide adequate care, it is time for surgeons and others to overcome an almost primitive reluctance to make use of the afterbirth for wound healing," *The Lancet* says, particularly when "a cheap, convenient, ubiquitous and truly biological dressing is needlessly going to waste".



The occupation begins

German officers shown on British Isles stamp

For the first time, and conceivably the last, two German officers from Hitler's Wehrmacht are depicted on a British Isles postage stamp. A 13p stamp issued by Guernsey shows two officers in their green-grey uniforms, with riding breeches and peaked caps, meeting the Dame of Sark and her husband on July 3, 1940 to take occupation of the island. It was one of five stamps issued to commemorate this year's centenary of the birth of the redoubtable Dame Sybil Hathaway, who ruled for 47 years over her three-and-a-half mile by one-and-a-half mile feudal fief.

Dame Sybil, who died in 1974, recorded in her autobiography that the Germans were met on their arrival by the Seneschal, or judge, of the

island and taken to her residence, the Seigneurie, where she and her husband remained firmly seated at a table at the far end of the drawing room thus compelling the Germans to walk all the length of the room to reach them.

The senior officer was Major Albrecht Lanz, a doctor of law and philosophy from Stuttgart, whom she described as tall, alert, quick speaking, dark-haired, and dark eyed. She judged him fair-minded and incapable of trickery.

The other, apparently brought as an interpreter since Lanz spoke no English, was a Dr Mann, a naval surgeon and specialist in tropical diseases who had spent eight years in Liverpool. "Something made me distrust him," she wrote.

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Whitehall chiefs support more selective code of practice on secrecy

By Peter Hennessy

Senior Whitehall Officials responsible for plugging leaks are relieved that some culprits are being discovered after years of vain inquiries by M15, the police and departmental security officers.

Some are convinced, however, that the ferocity of the Prime Minister's reaction to leaks, and widespread public disapproval of the six-month sentence imposed last week on Miss Sarah Tisdall, the former Foreign Office clerk, will drive Whitehall leakers to even greater exertions.

One seasoned veteran said: "It is like flu. If you get an epidemic, a lot of people catch it. The Government have been their own worst enemies."

The guardians of Whitehall confidentiality recognize there has been a surge of politically-motivated leaking by officials opposed to government policy since the consensus-breaking Thatcher administration took power in 1979 (see table below).

But they add, the difference between the Callaghan and Thatcher years is not as marked as it seems. As prime ministers, Mr James Callaghan did authorize several leak inquiries, but he



Sarah Tisdall: Leaked cruise documents.

did not invoke the services of M15 or the police with the ease and frequency of Mrs Thatcher.

There is concern in Whitehall, too, that the public will confuse cases involving genuine national security, such as that of Mr Michael Beitzel, the M15 officer who will be tried next month for alleged offences under section 1 of the Official Secrets Act (which deals with espionage) and that of Miss Tisdall.

Miss Tisdall was convicted under section 2 of the Act, the catch-all which covers unauthorized disclosures of all kinds.

The Franks report of 1972 recommended its replacement by a narrower, more precise statute.

Almost certainly, most of the 41 permanent secretaries believe the Government's position on open government is untenable, as it produces the worst of all worlds. However, none would favour a full-blooded freedom of information Act involving the courts.

But there is widespread support at the top of the Civil Service for a code of practice that would stipulate where confidentiality must be maintained and outline areas where openness is permissible.

Senior officials believe that under a more liberal information régime, there would be substantially less scope for leaking and greater respect for areas where Whitehall is justified in maintaining secrecy. But the Prime Minister is unmoved.

Security and confidentiality are a paramount interest of Mrs Thatcher. She is confident that pressure from backbench MPs and organizations such as the 1984 Campaign for Freedom of Information can be resisted.

IMPORTANT LEAKS FROM THE THATCHER GOVERNMENT, 1979-84

LEAK	DATE	PUBLICATION	INQUIRY	RESULT
Cabinet committee documents on privatization and need to "deprive" Civil Service	Nov 1979	S Times	M15	Inconclusive
Cabinet committee information on strategic nuclear weapons policy	Dec 1979	Times	M15	Inconclusive
Ministerial briefing paper on EEC	Sept 1980	Guardian	Thomas Bingham former Revenue official	Inconclusive, but relevant Cabinet committee closed down
Future defence spending	Oct 1980	Press Assoc	Police	Inconclusive, but chief MoD suspect moved to non-sensitive post
Pre-Budget leak of certain measures	Mar 1981	S Times	M15	Inconclusive
Persistent leaks of defence review drafts	Mar-Apr 1981	Telegraph (mainly)	Internal MoD	Several senior officers warned
Michael Heseltine's "It took a riot" minute to the Prime Minister	Aug 1981	Times	Internal DoE	Inconclusive
Letter from Mr Denis Thatcher to Secretary of State for Wales	Sept 1981	Times	Internal Welsh Office	Inconclusive, although anonymous official confessed on television Mar 1984
Treasury long-term spending details	June 1982	Times	Internal Treasury	Inconclusive
Central Policy Review Staff options on long-term spending	Sept 1982	Economist	M15	Inconclusive, although Cabinet minister suspected
CPRS details on nationalized industry policy	Nov 1982	Times	M15	Inconclusive
Family policy study group details	Feb 1983	Guardian	M15	Inconclusive
CPRS and Downing St Policy Unit documents on employment policy	May 1983	Time Out	M15	Inconclusive
Cabinet Committee papers on welfare, privatization and union power	June 1983	Time Out	M15	Inconclusive
Treasury papers on possible spending cuts	June 1983	Mr Peter Shore, Labour economic affairs spokesman Times	Not known	Not known
Forecast of emergency £500m spending cuts by the Chancellor, Nigel Lawson	July 1983	Internal Treasury	Inconclusive	
Michael Heseltine minute on cruise missile deployment	Oct 1983	Guardian	Police	Miss Sarah Tisdall jailed for six months
MoD documents on inefficiency and overspending on weapons procurement	Nov 1983	Observer	Police	In progress; official allegedly involved resigned
Conversation between Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, and top civil servant	Dec 1983	Time Out	M15	Mr Ian Willmore, Employment Dept official, dismissed
Chancellor's Budget details	Mar 1984	Guardian	Police	In progress
MoD consideration of pressure group activities of officials	Mar 1984	Guardian	Internal MoD	In progress
Possible privatizing of Polaris submarine refits	Mar 1984	Guardian	Internal MoD	In progress

Cheerful farmworkers take 4.5% 'insult'

As the British Labour movement prepares for the 150th anniversary on July 1 of the Tolpuddle martyrs, JOHN YOUNG, Agriculture Correspondent, visits the Dorset village to examine the life and tribulations of the contemporary farmworker.

Oliver Trevett, Herbie Pitman and Harold Hodder have an average age of 56. All three began working on farms in the Dorset in the latter years of the Second World War, when the alternatives were to be called up or to get a job in the local munitions factory.

Mr Jack Boddy, national secretary of the agricultural workers' section of the Transport and General Workers' Union, has for years tried unsuccessfully to get the National Farmers' Union to commit itself to bringing wages for men such as Oliver, Herbie and Harold up to the national industrial average. He described last week's award by the Agricultural Workers' Board of slightly more than 4.5 per cent as an insult.

But what are the feelings of Messrs Trevett, Pitman and Hodder? They are cheerful, gently-spoken men without a trace of rancour. They like and respect their employers and feel that, if anyone has made too much money out of farming, it is not the farmers but the merchants and middle-men.

Herbie Pitman began driving a horse-drawn plough at the age of 15; for a 52-hour week he was paid £1. Now he earns the craftsman's minimum of just over £100 for a 40-hour week and, depending on the time of year, up to £20 a week in overtime.

Oliver points out that earning a very considerably from farmers' farm, since some employees bring their own machinery, and up by time, while

others pay as little as possible. Ironically, a dry spring like this year, which makes it easy to get machines on to the fields, means less overtime working.

In the summer, particularly at harvest time, some men may work 15 hours a day. But, though the extra money is welcome, they get little time with their families.

Both Oliver and Herbie live in tied cottages, for which there is a theoretical maximum rent of £1.50 a week, but which few farmers bother to collect. Harold has recently moved into

a bungalow left to him by his father who died last May.

Herbie thinks that tied cottages are a disadvantage because they provide a pretext for not paying better wages. He would like to see them abolished.

"Most of what you hear about perks is rubbish," Harold insists. "I get firewood free, if I cut it myself. But we don't get free milk or potatoes like they did in the old days when there was more mixed farming."

A big expense is running a

car, now a necessity in rural areas. "Up 'til 1955 or so, if you saw a farmworker with a car, you'd think he'd robbed a bank or something," Oliver says.

"In summer I never used to be able to get to town," Harold recalls, "because I never got home in time to catch a bus. Now his nearest shop is four miles away."

Oliver is keen to dispel the idea that farm workers are interested only in higher wages. They are concerned about issues such as straw-burning and hedge removal and about farms getting steadily bigger through amalgamations.

But the bad image that farmers have earned is not always justified, he says. Owners of land generally tend to look after it better than tenants, he remarks.

None of the three sees a farmworkers' strike as likely in the present climate. But Oliver is scathing about the apathy of those who survive on a diet of bare breasts in *The Sun* and *Bingo*, and who haven't got the interest and intelligence to look ahead.

Harold thinks that traditionally close man-to-man relations between farmer and farmworker have hitherto deterred rebellion. But things might change if farms become any bigger and relationships less personal.

Despite their grumbles, all three men realize that their security and way of life are much envied, particularly at a time of high unemployment. "If a job is advertised, there are anything up to 100 applicants," Oliver says.

"When there was a rumour of a vacancy for a dairyman the other day, there were applicants from as far away as Norfolk. And it was only a



Mr Hodder: Against tied houses

£8,000 for woman beaten up by police

Mrs Clementine George, aged 46, who was beaten by the police when they ransacked her home in a search for her son, was awarded £8,030 damages in the High Court in London yesterday.

Mr Justice Clark said that £2,000 of the award was to mark the court's disapproval of the "outrageous" manner in which the police had carried out their search and for the way they had "concocted a false story" when they realized Mrs George might bring complaints against them.

Seven police officers led by Detective Sergeant Ronald Fletcher went to Mrs George's flat at Hazel Grove, Sydenham, south-east London, in December, 1980, to arrest her son Roy, aged 21, on suspicion of having been involved in a stabbing incident.

"They got her out of bed to answer the door and did not believe her when she said her son was not there. But Sergeant Fletcher was 'in no mood to be reasonable', the judge said. 'He kicked the door, breaking the chain and with his squad marched in'."

The judge accepted her evidence that they had repeatedly struck her as she followed them around her home, pulled out chest drawers, opened cupboards and left her personal property strewn across the floor.

They had held her on a radiator and she received blows to the stomach, chest and arms. While she was on the floor she was kicked and left lying by a black eye and bruises over her body.

Both sides agreed that she was left lying by the radiator but the police denied the attack and said entry to the flat was lawful. They said she became hysterical and lay on the floor wailing and kicking her feet.

But the judge said he had no doubt her version was true. "The police have deliberately lied to me. They realized some explanation would be necessary so they concocted a story that had to include reasonable justification for entering the flat."

He dismissed a police claim that Mrs George had led them to believe her son was there. She made it plain to them that he was not, they had no evidence to justify entry by force, the judge said.

After the hearing Mrs George said: "I have no malice towards the police. They have a hard job to do and I believe it was a one-off incident. 'I live on my own now and have six locks fitted to my door'."

Law Report, page 7

Two jailed on guns charge

David Davies, a chartered accountant, of Wimbledon, south London, and his business associate, John Silvertown, of Epsford, south London, were each jailed for two years by the Central Criminal Court yesterday after being convicted of assault and importing guns and ammunition.

Silvertown attacked a woman in a dummy run for a ransom attempt, the court was told, but both men were cleared of conspiracy to kidnap and rob members of a wealthy family.



High school students setting a car on fire in Atteridgeville, near Pretoria, yesterday after its driver knocked down three pupils protesting against the closing of schools in the black township (AP reports).

The three pupils suffered only minor injuries, and a crowd of about 3,000 students dispersed after dealing with the car. Highschools in Atteridgeville have been hit by periodic boycotts since the

beginning of the year. Students have protested against the Government's refusal to allow them to elect their own student councils, as well as against alleged excessive corporal punishment.

Cabinet nuclear report leak embarrasses Hawke

From Tony Dubondin, Melbourne

Details of a confidential Cabinet document which calls for Australia to make nuclear weapons in the event of neighbouring countries obtaining such weapons have been published by the weekly news magazine *The National Times*.

The federal government has not denied the authenticity of the information, and has ordered federal police to investigate the leak.

The document, "Strategic Basis of Australian Defence Policy", says that Australia should be in a position to develop nuclear weapons as quickly as any neighbour that looks like doing so.

Developments relating to nuclear capability in countries within Australia's neighbourhood should be monitored in order to ensure that the lead time for Australia could be

matched with developments in other countries "should the Government so decide", the document says.

"Independent of Australia's treaty commitments, we see no security advantage to Australia now in the acquisition of chemical or biological weapons. We recognise, however, that such weapons could be acquired relatively easily by unfriendly nations should they see advantage."

The document was, *The National Times* claims, fully supported by the Government and accepted virtually without comment by the federal Cabinet in Perth last December.

On the question of the Anzus treaty with the United States, which has formed the cornerstone of Australian foreign policy for many years, the document says that the treaty is

not likely to be of much use in the event of a conflict with Indonesia.

"Australian policy for some years has recognised that the threshold of direct US combat involvement could be quite high, and circumstances at the time could significantly limit US willingness or ability to help Australia in other ways", the document says.

It also urges Australia to encourage the Papua New Guinea Government to "suppress" West Irian rebels as a means of reducing the potential Indonesian threat to Papua New Guinea.

Any attempt to counteract an Indonesian attack across the Papua New Guinea border would be assisted by the establishment of an RAF fighter base on Cape York in the far north of Queensland.

Women tell Weinberger 'Go home'

From Mario Modiano, Athens

A small crowd of Greek women pacifists waved banners with anti-American slogans and chanted "Caspar go home", as Mr Caspar Weinberger, the United States Defence Secretary, arrived in Athens yesterday for talks with the Greek leaders.

The women turned up outside the VIP lounge of Athens airport, some bringing their children, in response to a call by the pro-Soviet Communist Party of Greece, which is evidently disturbed by the recent spate of visits by top American and Nato officials.

The women waved placards demanding that Greece get "out of Nato", and saying "No to the bases of death". As the official processor drove off, they shouted: "No to the American Hawks".

The Communist Party said that this was only an *hors d'oeuvre* of the unfriendly manifestations.

Mr Weinberger, who is accompanied by senior aides, said he was looking forward to "fruitful and useful discussions".

Reagan pledges backing for Philippine poll

From Keith Dalton, Manila

President Reagan, in apparent response to criticism of US "meddling" in Philippine politics, has assured President Marcos that America regards the parliamentary elections in May as "strictly a Philippine matter".

In a personal letter to the 66-year-old Filipino President, Mr Reagan said he was confident the elections could bring about "democratic institutions appropriate to the Philippines".

But he was less sure about the chances of Congress approving in full the military aid package promised to the Philippines next year as part payment for America's use of two large military bases here.

In his letter to Mr Marcos, hand delivered on Thursday night by the American Ambassador Mr Michael Armacost, Mr Reagan said that, while his Administration would continue to support the original \$900m (\$516m) compensation package under the five-year military bases agreement, signed last year, "I want to be candid and tell you that for now the outcome is uncertain".

The US House of Representatives subcommittee on East



President Marcos: Assured of US impartiality.

Asia and Pacific affairs recently voted a \$60m cut in next year's military aid and transferred it to the economic assistance fund, boosting this aid package to \$155m.

Speculation that the amended aid package might pass the full House vote could explain Mr Reagan's admission that he may be unable to restore military assistance to its original level.

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PARLIAMENT March 30 1984

Minister warns cyclists of dangers

Commons

Over the past decade the number of cyclists had increased annually, reversing the steady decline in the years before 1974, Mr Cecil Franks (Barrow and Furness, C) said on moving in the Commons the second reading of the Cycle Tracks Bill. As the number had increased so had the number of cycling accidents.

Cyclists were vulnerable in traffic. One way of helping them was to provide separate cycle tracks either alongside or away from roads. This Bill addressed itself to the provision and protection of such tracks.

The most appropriate way of improving conditions for cyclists was on the carriageway itself. Failing that, separate alternative provision for cyclists should be considered. Shared pedestrian-cycle use should primarily be a cycle safety measure of last resort.

The Bill would make a useful and valuable contribution to ensuring the safety of cyclists while ensuring that the interests of others were protected.

Mr Gerald Birmingham (St Helens South, Lab) said it had long been the hope of many that with the move towards a more leisure society the bicycle would come back into its own. If the use of bicycles was to be encouraged in the way suggested by this Bill it was necessary at the same time to encourage and extend

training for young cyclists. Mr Harry Greenwood (Gilling North, C) said as one who cycled regularly about London and as a member of the all-party cycling group, he was often alarmed at the lack of room motorists gave to cyclists, and juggernauts were an absolute terror to them.

For safety the road had to be kept free from pot holes and the GLC had signalled failed to do this with London's roads. Cycling safety should be taught at an early stage. Children should not be allowed to cycle to school until they had passed a cycling proficiency test.

It was good to see row upon row of cycles at Westminster. It showed MPs realised the value of exercise and fresh air.

Mr Gregory Knight (Derby North, C) said he welcomed the Bill as cycling was growing in popularity and it was only right to have proper provisions to cater for it. The procedure for converting footpaths into cycle tracks was tortuous and complex for local authorities, so he welcomed the proposal for them to be able to make the conversion in one step. The measure was overdue.

Mr Peter Bottomley (Eltham, C) said reducing the bureaucracy involved in changing footpaths to cycle tracks would encourage local authorities to press ahead. The police should pay more attention to cycles travelling without lights.

Mr Colin Mayhew (Lewisham East, C) said 30 per cent of households now had a cycle. It was an efficient and cheap method of recreation. It was healthy and enjoyable, quiet and did not pollute the atmosphere. The simplification of the procedure to convert footpaths into cycle tracks would encourage cycling as a whole.

Mr Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, said as a cycle-friendly minister she welcomed the Bill.

There was no suggestion that there would be shared use of pavements.

The Government had encouraged local authorities to provide facilities for cyclists and had been considering their needs in relation to trunk road proposals. Currently there had been about 226 miles converted to cycle routes.

Two routes in Canterbury and Stockton would soon be implemented. These would be monitored by the Road Research Laboratory and give valuable information for the future.

I very much regret (she added) seeing night after night cyclists without properly functioning back and front lights. They do themselves no benefit and put themselves and others in great danger.

Some 300,000 youngsters a year took the national cycling proficiency scheme and parents had a responsibility to make sure their children's cycles were in good order. She was about to finalize advice which would be going out to local

authorities in the form of a local transport note on cycle tracks. This advice would stress that shared use was to be an exceptional measure and that segregation by barrier or kerb was best.

Occasionally cyclists' enthusiasm overcame them and they did some pretty crazy things. Travelling about central London on Wednesday she was able to see things she hated seeing cyclists do, like weaving in and out of other vehicles. At times they almost mounted the pavement to cross junctions in order to avoid adhering to the rules of the road and obeying traffic lights.

If only cyclists would behave with more common sense and obey the rules of the road there would be fewer frustrated motorists who tended to try to ease cyclists out.

The Bill was read a second time.

● The Juries (Disqualification) Bill which disqualifies from juries certain people convicted of criminal offences, again failed to get a third reading in the Commons. Last Friday after several hours of debate the Bill's sponsors failed to carry the closure motion. Today after a short debate, the voting for the third reading was 24 in favour and none against, but the Bill fell as fewer than 40, the Commons quorum, voted.

● The Trade Marks (Amendment) Bill and the Agriculture (Amendment) Bill were both read the third time.

صكرامن الاصل

D'Aubuisson the statesman accepts defeat and denounces death squads

Major Roberto D'Aubuisson has put the results of Sunday's presidential elections in El Salvador beyond argument by conceding that his main political rival, Señor Jose Napoleón Duarte, beat him to first place.

The fervently anti-communist major, not celebrated for his decorous behaviour, took everyone by surprise at a press conference on Thursday by congratulating Señor Duarte on "a magnificent campaign" and "a good result".

A vote count carried out by Major D'Aubuisson's Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena) party tallies roughly with that of Señor Duarte's Christian Democrats. Agreement now appears to be general that Señor Duarte picked up about 45 per cent of the vote and Major D'Aubuisson about 30 per cent.

The scene is therefore set for a run-off election between the two, either on April 29 or May 10, it now appears.

The major revealed his sure populist touch at the news conference when he called for the multi-million dollar, American-inspired electoral system innovated for these elections to be scrapped in the second round. This demand will find an echo among those tens of thousands of Salvadoreans frustrated in their desire to vote during Sunday's chaotic poll.

But it was not so much D'Aubuisson the populist leader who was in evidence on Thursday as D'Aubuisson "the

From John Carlin, San Salvador

pathological killer" - in a celebrated phrase - turned statesman. "The major", as he is known, is clearly being well-groomed for the presidency.

In two packed news conferences during the past week he has deflected with consummate skill, with scornful ease even,



Major D'Aubuisson: Skilful handling of press.

the attempts of eager reporters to provoke an unguarded quote on his much-publicized involvement with El Salvador's death squads, and his alleged link with the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero in 1980.

"Major, what do you think of Duarte's claim that he'll carry out a thorough investigation into Mr. Romero's murder?" one reporter asked.

"I'd welcome an investigation by Duarte. In fact, I'd welcome it so much I'd almost vote for him," replied Major D'Aubuisson, adding: "I believe in the law, we must restructure the judicial system."

"Will you do anything to improve the country's human rights situation if you win?"

"We in Arena are the first to want human rights really to be improved in El Salvador."

Major D'Aubuisson is visibly growing in composure in his handling of an international press corps he recently described as "the real death squads of El Salvador".

At the Thursday press conference major D'Aubuisson was asked what he thought about a threat by a death squad against the manifestly incompetent Central Electoral Council, which is still counting the votes of Sunday's election.

"It's atrocious. These people (the death squad) don't understand just how much damage they are causing our country," the major said.

Exodus of Miskitos explained

By Colin Harding

Coinciding with increasingly severe rebel attacks against the Sandinista Government, and with appeals from Managua for help from the international community, an official Nicaraguan delegation was in London this week to explain the refugee problem on the remote Atlantic coast.

The region, which accounts for more than half of Nicaragua's territory but only a tiny percentage of its population, has been drawn into the war being waged by the *contras* from neighbouring Honduras and Costa Rica.

The traditionally neglected and disaffected Miskito Indians have provided fertile ground for supporters of the overthrown Somoza regime, and more than 20,000 Nicaraguan Miskitos have taken refuge in neighbouring countries, where they live in camps under the supervision of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

The solution to the refugee problem has become one of the elements in the Contadora group's efforts to promote a regional settlement in Central America.

The Sandinistas lay most of the blame for the Miskito exodus on skilful manipulation by the *contras* of the Indians' historic grievances, and mistrust of the central government

in Managua, whatever its political complexion.

But the Sandinistas' two ministers responsible for the Atlantic coast, Comandante William Ramirez and Comandante Humberto Campbell, cheerfully recognized yesterday that the present Government's mistakes have contributed to the problem.

A Miskito representative, Señorta Hazel Law, explained that the Sandinistas had failed to understand such things as the Miskitos' long-standing claim to log-cutting rights and their desire for schooling in their own language.

In a speech in honour of Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, the Ethiopian leader, Mr. Chernenko scored Washington's posture as "champion of peace" and accused the United States of ignoring Soviet proposals for nuclear arms reductions. He said American actions in Nicaragua graphically demonstrated Washington's "state terrorism".

The recent focus of Soviet anger, however, has been southern Africa, where Moscow believes Pretoria is "posing as a champion of peace" under American pressure.

Colonel Mengistu - despite recent reports of a rift with Moscow - is one of Russia's closest allies in Africa, and is currently chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

Tass said his talks with Mr. Chernenko on Thursday and with Mr. Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, and Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Defence Minister, yesterday, had been warm and friendly.

The photograph on the front page of *Pravda* suggested that in foreign affairs at least Mr. Chernenko is first among equals rather than in sole charge. It gave equal prominence to Marshal Ustinov, Mr. Gromyko, Mr. Chernenko and Mr. Geidar Aliyev. The late Mr. Yuri Andropov used to receive foreign leaders alone.

In his Kremlin speech Mr. Chernenko promised continued Soviet aid to Angola and Mozambique.

Colonel Mengistu replied by praising Soviet aid to Africa and said the OAU had only been saved from disintegration by considerable efforts.

Col Mengistu: Praise for Soviet aid.

Chernenko hits at American terrorism

From Richard Owen Moscow

Diplomats said yesterday that Mr. Konstantin Chernenko's latest remarks showed the Kremlin had little or no hope of a rapprochement with the Reagan Administration before the November presidential elections.

The Soviet party leader's sharp criticism of the United States follows a month of bitter Soviet attacks on American policy in southern Africa, Central America and the Middle East.

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Col Mengistu: Praise for Soviet aid.

Mondale favoured in crucial primary New York may fool experts

From Nicholas Ashford New York

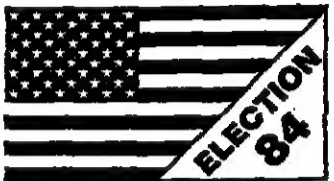
If endorsements alone won presidential primaries then Mr. Walter Mondale would walk away with New York on Tuesday.

Virtually every politician and organization of note has come out for him. Mr. Mario Cuomo, the state's popular and influential Governor, is his campaign chairman. New York's Mayor Mr. Ed Koch, has come out for Mr. Mondale as has the state's best known Irishman, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, as well as prominent black and Hispanic congressmen.

In this heavily unionized state, where workers traditionally follow the dictates of their bosses, the AFL-CIO has staked its prestige on delivering a resounding victory for the former Vice-President.

Publications as diverse as the *Village Voice*, the *Jewish Press* and the *New York Post* have urged their readers to vote for him.

Yet the results of earlier primary contests this year have shown that political endorsements can be a two-edged sword. (In Massachusetts they did Mr. Mondale more harm than good.) In addition the 3.5



million registered Democrats in New York have a reputation for bucking the authority of their leaders.

In 1980, they voted for Senator Edward Kennedy against President Carter in defiance of the whole party apparatus. And in 1982 they voted for Cuomo as Governor instead of Koch, the choice of the party establishment.

The New York primary has become the pivotal event of the 1984 campaign. With 285 delegates at stake, New York will be sending the second largest delegation to the Democratic party's nominating convention in San Francisco this summer. Both Mr. Mondale and his chief rival, Senator Gary Hart, badly need a victory on Tuesday.

"Political endorsements count for very little in presidential primaries," said Mr. Mark Siegel, a local assemblyman and early Hart supporter, "particu-

larly compared with the army of volunteers which has come forward to work for us."

To demonstrate his point Mr. Siegel takes visiting journalists on a tour around the newly-opened Hart headquarters in Manhattan.

The place is buzzing with campaign workers, most of them young, answering phones, cycling leaflets, answering phones. The Mondale headquarters in the next-door building is tomb-like by comparison.

The polls, the pundits and the conventional wisdom (all of which have been proved badly wrong this year) are predicting a clear victory for Mr. Mondale.

The former Vice-President is believed to have a 2-1 lead among Jews, who comprise almost one third of Democratic voters in New York, although Senator Hart's lavishly pro-Israel speech of a week ago may have won him some converts.

Mr. Mondale is also believed to be leading among trade union members and the elderly. Mondale aides believe he will pick up some black support, but the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the third candidate in the race, is expected to win most of the 400,000 black votes.

US admits flights over Salvador

From Christopher Thomas Washington

The United States has confirmed that "for some time" it has conducted reconnaissance flights over El Salvador to provide the embattled army with almost instant intelligence on the movement of anti-government guerrillas.

It is first time the Americans have conceded any involvement in the four-year civil war beyond the provision of military aid and training of Salvadorean troops. The aircraft are believed to operate out of Honduras.

Mr. Thomas Pickering, US Ambassador to El Salvador, said in Washington that reconnaissance flights connected with the Salvadorean presidential election would continue at least until the run-off election, expected to be held in early May.

He added that the missions did not represent any expansion of the US role in the war. "These kind of things have been part of the scene in El Salvador for some time."

New of the reconnaissance missions came as the Senate debated President Reagan's request for an immediate \$62m (£42m) in emergency military aid to El Salvador.

A formal vote is expected on the floor of the senate next week. Senator Edward Kennedy, who is heading the rigorous opposition, said: "We are being led into a war."

Sri Lanka violence worries Indians

From Our Own Correspondent, Delhi

Acute anxiety is being expressed in India over reports of renewed violence in Sri Lanka. According to reports reaching here from the north of the island, as many as 30 people have been killed and at least 25 are in hospital following indiscriminate firing by security forces in two places.

The firing followed a Tamil terrorist attack on a group of Air Force personnel in Chinnakam in the northern province. The airman immediately opened fire on a crowd in the street, and later drove through another town near by, Mallaikam, where they opened fire again. Children, and pregnant women, were said to be among the victims.

Arsonists - reported by the news agency United News of India to be more Air Force troops - set fire to seven shops in Apthurelly, 10 miles from Jaffna. And in the northernmost habitation in the island, Pedro Point, the Sri Lankan authorities have raided a number of homes and arrested 40 people with suspected ties to the Tamil terrorists.

The Indian Government in a official statement deplored the violence in Sri Lanka and urged all sides to continue the political process of dialogue and consultation.

The statement was badly received in Colombo where the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry accused the Indians of reacting one-sidedly and neglecting to condemn terrorist violence. Yesterday, however, the

Indian spokesman pointed out that the statement had condemned all violence, and added that the High Commissioner would be speaking to the Sri Lankan authorities "appropriately".

A member of Mrs. Indira Gandhi's own party asked her Government immediately to despatch Navy and Air Force personnel to Sri Lanka to protect the Tamil minority. An Opposition MP accused the Government of "dilly-dallying".

The Indian public has also been perturbed by what appears to them to be a renewed effort by the Sri Lankan Government to bear down hard on the Tamil population.

A new Ministry has been set up with the title Ministry of National Security, charged with rooting out Tamil extremism, under Oxford-educated Mr. Lalith Athipathumudi. Military rule is to be imposed on the Jaffna district from tomorrow and the Tamil administrator of Jaffna has been replaced by a Sinhalese.

The Bombay English-language newspaper, *The Times of India*, said yesterday that these measures, together with the Government's suspension of the latest round of talks until May "have further encouraged the security forces to believing that for all practical purposes the Government is no longer interested in redressing the numerous and legitimate grievances of the Tamils but only in cowering them down into submission."

Moderate killed

A moderate Sikh leader who spoke out against the burning of the constitution by demonstrators at the Delhi Sikh temple was coolly assassinated in a Delhi street by gunmen who walked over to his car and pumped 10 bullets into him.

Four members of a family were shot dead near the Golden Temple by a gang of seven or eight killers who burst into the house of Mr. Rajpal Singh Bedi, a former associate of the founder of Akali Dal, Master Tara Singh.

Students' Federation, which was officially banned by the central Government last week, has made plans to circumvent its banning, and is reported to have proposed an increase in militant activities.

In the Golden Temple of Amritsar where he shelters, Mr. Harinder Singh Sandhu, the general secretary of the AISSR, a revolver at his hip and a bandolier of ammunition around his shoulder, explained to me that the federation would continue despite the ban.

It would organize teams within Sikh temples - known as *Gurdwaras* or dwellings of the Guru - all round the state and outside. "Three thousand new recruits have come forward since the announcement of the ban," he said.

Meanwhile, across town, the Amritsar chief of police, Mr. Ajai Singh Mann, insisted that he did not need any further reinforcements to deal with the expected trouble. With his desk surrounded by officers from the paramilitary Central Police Reserve Force, he said he would be redeploying those forces at his disposal.

The previous week he had to deal with more than 5,000 demonstrators courting arrest in the centre of the old town.

But he acknowledged that dealing with terrorists was a more difficult proposition. "I draw a parallel with Britain," he said "in 12 years they have not managed to eliminate terrorism from Northern Ireland."

"The terrorists have the sympathy of the people. If they did not we would not be in this position. We are simply not getting information. We get no cooperation from the people."

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— TRADITIONALLY, GREAT PERFORMERS —

Rising tension in Punjab Sikh militants prepare week of protests

From Michael Hamlyn Amritsar

Tension in the strife-torn state of Punjab is rising this week as both sides prepare for a week-long series of demonstrations in support of the Sikh demands.

The leaders of the Sikh political party, the Akali Dal, under the direction of its president, Sant Harmandir Singh Longowal, are proposing to fill the jails of the state with peacefully protesting demonstrators.

On the first day, next Monday, the organizers are proposing that 25,000 people should court arrest all over the state. A further 25,000 will offer themselves during the rest of the week.

At the same time, however, the extremist wings of the Sikh community have been making plans for stepping up their protests. The All-India Sikh

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Students' Federation, which was officially banned by the central Government last week, has made plans to circumvent its banning, and is reported to have proposed an increase in militant activities.

In the Golden Temple of Amritsar where he shelters, Mr. Harinder Singh Sandhu, the general secretary of the AISSR, a revolver at his hip and a bandolier of ammunition around his shoulder, explained to me that the federation would continue despite the ban.

It would organize teams within Sikh temples - known as *Gurdwaras* or dwellings of the Guru - all round the state and outside. "Three thousand new recruits have come forward since the announcement of the ban," he said.

Meanwhile, across town, the Amritsar chief of police, Mr. Ajai Singh Mann, insisted that he did not need any further reinforcements to deal with the expected trouble. With his desk surrounded by officers from the paramilitary Central Police Reserve Force, he said he would be redeploying those forces at his disposal.

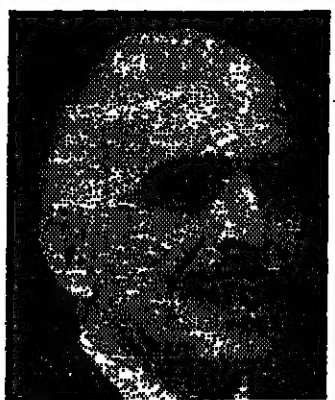
The previous week he had to deal with more than 5,000 demonstrators courting arrest in the centre of the old town.

But he acknowledged that dealing with terrorists was a more difficult proposition. "I draw a parallel with Britain," he said "in 12 years they have not managed to eliminate terrorism from Northern Ireland."

"The terrorists have the sympathy of the people. If they did not we would not be in this position. We are simply not getting information. We get no cooperation from the people."

Husain holds out hope of peace breakthrough if Labour wins in Israel

From Christopher Walker, Aqaba



King Hussein: Surprisingly moderate statement.

With the Israeli general election less than five months away, King Hussein yesterday made some remarkably conciliatory remarks about the possibility of a victory for the current front-runner, the opposition Labour Party, whose leader, Mr Shimon Peres, this week said he was prepared to negotiate for peace outside the parameters of the Camp David process.

The King's statement, delivered to British correspondents at the end of the Queen's five-day visit, was seen in diplomatic circles as raising the possibility of improved chances of breaking the dangerous Middle East deadlock if Labour succeeds in defeating the right-wing Likud coalition.

At the same time, it was noted that the tenor of the King's comments could have potentially damaging consequences for Labour in the forthcoming campaign, by exposing it to charges from Likud leaders of being soft on the issue of the West Bank, which is expected to be a key issue, along with Lebanon and the economy.

"I am very interested in a phenomenon we see that Labour now appears to be more responsible in terms of its announced positions so far", the King said. "And for a party in opposition to adopt such an attitude is very interesting to watch."

"If as a result Labour comes to power then maybe there is a change that is a healthy one in Israel itself."

An agreement between Labour and King Hussein to come to the negotiating table would be central to finding a solution to the Palestinian

problem. It could lead to the resuscitation of a modified version of the moribund Reagan peace plan if the King could succeed in securing backing for his move from the moderate Arab states and the loyalist faction of the PLO led by Mr Yasser Arafat.

The moderation of the King's remarks took Middle East correspondents by surprise. In recent years, he has frequently dismissed Labour's so-called "Jordanian option" of trading large chunks of West Bank territory for peace as being of no great significance in distinguishing its overall attitude from that of Likud.

The problems of Jerusalem still appear to present an insurmountable obstacle to a peace agreement. Labour, like Likud, flatly refuses to contemplate any negotiation over the eastern part of the Holy City annexed soon after the 1967 war.

Speaking on the patio of his beachside palace at Aqaba, overlooking the Red Sea, the King made clear that his terms

for an agreement with Israel could be summed up under the slogan "total withdrawal for total peace."

But he spoke grimly of the immediate prospects for peace in the region, reminding journalists of the difficulties posed by the continuing Gulf War between Iran and his close ally, Iraq.

Although the King repeated his earlier strong criticism of the US Government because of the strength of its Israeli ties, which he again said had cancelled America's chances of being a regional mediator, he went out of his way to temper what had previously been interpreted as personal criticism of President Reagan.

The Jordanian monarch emphasized that the US leader was a personal friend, and described him as "a man of courage and of vision". His determination to clear up any misinterpretation of his earlier attacks on the United States was seen as hinting that perhaps the King had not abandoned all hopes of US involvement in the peace process.

The King said that Britain and other EEC countries could now play a greater part in trying to break the Middle East stalemate, if only by informing the world accurately about the facts, such as the situation in the occupied West Bank.

Jordan's policy he said, was now based on two central planks: the continuation of the renewed dialogue with the PLO, and the move to have Arab decisions taken by majority rather than consensus, which would eliminate the wrecking power of radicals such as Libya and Syria.



Swan song: A French soldier with the multinational force in Lebanon whiling away the last few minutes before boarding ship in Beirut harbour.

EEC not going broke after all

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The European Commission has backed away from a head-on clash with Britain over a demand for early payment of a £100m contribution to the EEC.

After the British Government made plain on Wednesday that it would not hand the money over yesterday as ordered, the Commission "discovered" it did not really need it yet anyway.

The Commission's move away from confrontation means that at this very sensitive time in Britain's relations with the rest of the EEC there is no additional complicating factor in the form of a European Court case against Britain for failure to comply with an order.

At the same time it indicates a lack of firmness by the Commission when it has been asked to show imagination in drawing up a set of proposals to lead the Community out of deadlock.

The view in Brussels is that the Commission should have had enough foresight to withdraw its demand for the money before the British Government could announce that it would refuse to pay it.

The demand for the money

was made on March 12 perfectly properly and in the interest of good housekeeping. At that time the Commission was expecting that it would have to make payments by the end of this month totalling about £733m to Britain and West Germany as rebates for 1983.

Money of that sort was beyond the Commission's normal means, so it planned ahead by asking all member states to pay over by March 30 their agricultural levies and customs duties, due on April 20.

The failure at the summit and subsequently at last Tuesday's foreign council, however, meant that France and Italy refused to lift their block on payment of the rebates. In consequence, the Commission did not have to have the extra money available, but it did not immediately withdraw its demand for the special payment.

On Wednesday, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, told Parliament about the failure at the Council. While ruling out any decision at that stage on withholding contributions to the Community, he said the early payment called

for this week would not be transferred to Brussels ahead of its normal time.

Mr Gaston Thorn, the Commission's president, commented that this move would sour relationships. When asked if Britain was to be taken before the European Court, he told journalists that the Commission would have to consider what action to take.

On Thursday afternoon, after studying the figures, the Commission suddenly discovered that it would not need the money to be paid early, after all. It did reserve the right to make an extra demand if the finances deteriorated, but for the moment it was notifying all states that they did not need to send through their transfer early.

The Community always lives from hand-to-mouth and the Commission admitted yesterday that it was doing "synthetics" with its cash in order to meet its commitments. At the same time, it was now confident that it could cover its legal obligations for the present without the early payment.

Financial gun aimed at ministers

From Ian Murray, Brussels

EEC agriculture ministers resumed their weary negotiations in Brussels yesterday afternoon with a financial gun pointed at their heads. If they fail to reach agreement by tomorrow their indecision will start costing the Community some £6m a day.

That is money which the cash-starved Community can ill afford at the moment. There was hope in Commission circles yesterday that the stark economic facts might force the ministers to take initiatives and make compromises which would at last break the deadlock.

The most difficult issue remained Ireland's insistence that it must be allowed to increase its milk production, even though everyone else was being required to cut back. The Irish demand has run into tremendous opposition, particularly from the Netherlands and Britain.

Bokassa robbed

Versailles (AFP) - Intruders entered two chateaux belonging to the former Central African Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa, and got away with documents. Mr Bokassa was asleep upstairs.

Patriarch's plea to Pope for Antonov

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The Bulgarians have played what is likely to be their last card in efforts to disassociate their country from the attempt to murder the Pope by publishing an appeal addressed to the Pope himself by the Patriarch Mahim of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, calling for the release of Mr Sergei Antonov.

Mr Antonov has been custody here since November, 1982, on suspicion of having been involved in the plot against the Pope's life in May the previous year.

He was accused as an accomplice by Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish terrorist who seriously wounded the Pope in St Peter's Square during the May 13 public audience.

Mr Antonov and the Bulgarian authorities have always proclaimed his complete innocence. He was employed in Rome by the Balkan Airline. Agca also accused two other Bulgarians who had, however, already left the country.

Mr Antonov remained in Rome for more than a year after the unsuccessful attempt on the Pope's life. He was then arrested and last Christmas he was freed from prison on grounds of ill-health and held under house arrest. Last month a court ordered his return to prison.

The appeal on his behalf by

Patriarch Mahim is published in the Bulgarian weekly *Church News*. The Patriarch expresses his conviction that Mr Antonov is innocent and says that the Pope's "extremely authoritative voice" would be able to contribute to the "triumph of justice".

It is somewhat ironic that the Patriarch is known in Rome as perhaps the most anti-Catholic of the leaders of the Eastern Orthodox churches.

There seems little chance that his appeal will be considered. The Italian judicial investigation is near its end. The public prosecutor has completed his report. He now has to decide whether to propose the acquittal of Mr Antonov or have him sent for trial.

His opinion then goes to the Investigating Magistrate, Signor Ilario Martella, who will make the final decision on acquittal or trial.

Mr Antonov's lawyers believe their client will inevitably be sent for trial and that the case will probably be heard in June.

Patriarch Mahim makes the point that the Pope has already publicly forgiven Ali Agca and visited him in prison. But as head of a foreign state the Pope could hardly be expected to try to alter the course of Italian judicial procedures.

Outcry over Paris police shake-up

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The long-simmering discontent among the police has been highlighted by the French Government decision to replace three senior officers in the Paris police force because of alleged "indiscretions," and to close the press room in the headquarters of the Paris Crime Squad. Both decisions have provoked a public outcry.

The removal of M Jacques Genthal, the highly respected and successful head of the Crime Squad, who was appointed by the Government only two years ago, has caused particularly vigorous protests both from within the Crime Squad itself and, exceptionally, from eight Parisian criminal court judges. It is rare for the judiciary to give public support to a policeman in that way.

The Government has never fully explained its reasons for M Genthal's transfer to a much less sensitive and exposed post involved in modernizing the police force. It will only say that there were far too many "leaks" from the police appearing in the press, without explaining how M Genthal himself was involved.

Various theories have been put forward as to why M Genthal fell out of favour with the Government, and all seem to lead back to the Elysée palace and President Mitterrand, where control of the police is now believed effectively to lie.

It is said that the Elysée did not appreciate M Genthal's role in bringing to light the "irregularities" committed by the GIGN, the Elysée-favoured elite, anti-terrorist squad within the gendarmerie, over the arrest in September 1982 of three alleged Irish terrorists.

It is said that he had too close contacts with a writer by the name of Jean-Edern Hallier, who claims to have written a book (as yet unpublished) on the secrets of President Mitterrand's private life. M Hallier himself claims that M Genthal warned him that the Government were probably tapping his telephone.

It is also suggested that M Genthal discovered embarrassing links between an alleged left-wing terrorist, named Jean-Louis Baudet, and the Elysée. But none of these theories has been conclusively proved.

News of M Genthal's replacement and the closure of the Press room in the Crime Squad's headquarters came shortly after the publication last week of a confidential report by M Guy Fogier, Chief of the Paris police, in which he complained that the police could no longer effectively carry out their duties in the capital because of an acute shortage of personnel.

Mr Fogier's complaints were, of course, manna from heaven for the Opposition which has made the deterioration of law and order one of its main vote-catching themes.

The Government says that it has increased the number of police by 8,841 officers since coming to power in 1981, which compares with an increase of only 5,340 over the previous five-year period. However, another leaked document from the Minister for Public Security shows that that increase "barely compensates" for the reduction in the working week introduced under the Socialists.

Submarine skipper held after loss of trawler

Copenhagen (Reuters) - Three fishermen were drowned when their trawler sank after an accident with a German-built submarine off Jutland. Police said they were questioning the captain of the submarine.

The trawler, the Ane Katrine, was fishing for lobster when the accident occurred in the Skagerrak between Denmark and Norway. Police suspect that the submarine, the Simpson, built recently for Chile and undergoing sea trials, may have become tangled in the nets of the trawler and dragged it down.

An official inquiry has been ordered.

Funeral tribute to Sekou Toure

Conakry (AFP) - Some 50,000 Guineans paid homage yesterday to the late President Ahmed Sekou Toure as he was buried with full ceremony here. They started to gather at dawn in the September 28 stadium and there were scenes of hysteria as the coffin, draped in the green, yellow and red national flag arrived on a gun carriage.

Heads of state from all over Africa were present for the stadium eulogy and burial at the national mausoleum. Vice-President Georges Buis of the United States and M Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister were among the mourners.

Hostages safe

Lisbon (Reuters) - Seventy-five British, Portuguese and Filipino hostages, captured in a guerrilla raid in Angola, have arrived safely at a Unita base camp after marching for over a month, according to a Unita source here.

Poison found

The Hague (AFP) - Dutch trawlers have recovered 12 of the 80 barrels of highly toxic herbicide lost by a Danish ship during a storm in the North Sea in January.

Nurse guilty

Riverside, California (Reuters) - Robert Diaz, a male nurse who claimed to possess psychic healing powers, was convicted of murdering 12 elderly patients by giving them overdoses of a heart drug. He could be sentenced to die in the gas chamber.

New Premier

Dhaka (AFP) - President Hussain Mohammad Ershad of Bangladesh has named Ataur Rahman Khan, aged 79, as his Prime Minister.

Express delivery

Tacoma, Washington (AP) - A 23-year-old woman who thought her weight gain was due to giving up smoking and her labour pains were indigestion gave birth suddenly in her livingroom to a 7lb daughter. Her husband had a vasectomy two years ago.

Threat to town

Hilo, Hawaii (Reuters) - A state of emergency was declared here as the flow of burning lava from the Mauna Loa volcano moved to within five miles of its outskirts. Residents are ready for evacuation.

Workers seized in Lisbon protest at pay arrears

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

Two hundred and twenty workers have been arrested and taken to police headquarters for identification this week, for gathering in front of the official Lisbon residence of Dr Mario Soares, the Prime Minister.

The arrested men, union representatives, were demanding an audience with the Prime Minister to discuss the plight of over 150,000 workers who are owed several months' salaries.

The arrests were made on the ground that the men were holding unauthorized demonstrations and were gathered within 100 yards of the Prime Minister's residence, an act prohibited by law. The union officials claim they were not holding a demonstration, but

simply gathering in small groups to petition the Prime Minister.

The arrested men are members of the unions which belong to the Communist-led CGTP labour federation. The Government claims, however, that the meetings form part of an organized plan to harass the Government.

However, the workers do have a legitimate complaint. Many of the 150,000 have not been paid for a year and their families are suffering genuine hardships as prices are rocketing.

Some 457 companies owe back-wages to their workers. The total amount owed is estimated at £120m.

US rounds on another UN agency

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Following its ultimatum to Unesco, the United States has now attacked United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad), accusing it of being responsible for "serious negative trends" in the North-South negotiations on economic development.

The US briefing paper on Unctad, issued here yesterday, said these trends "will lead eventually to a total breakdown of this process". An official said "Unctad is simply on the wrong track."

The US briefing paper said there must be changes in Unctad's leadership, management, mandate and work process.



Behind bars: Five Italians found guilty of kidnapping Gaby Kiss Maerth, the daughter of a Hungarian-born British businessman, who were jailed by a Como court for terms ranging from 16 to 20 years.

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THE ARTS

Theatre

Midsummer of content

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Other Place

Reaching Stratford after five months on the road Sheila Hancock's production confirms if confirmation were needed, that the RSC's touring standards are as exacting as those of its home-based products. The cast is headed by some names new to me, coupled with some veteran actors lower down the list. But in no sense is this a B company; and above all, the show presents Miss Hancock (as her Hamlet's mother) as a classical director of real authority. When Shakespeare is concerned, she possesses two indispensable attributes - a clear personal vision of the play, and the capacity to let individual actors flower inside it.

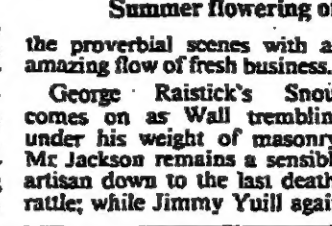
Bob Crowley's setting suggests a dusty attic with an old wardrobe in one corner and a bank of old-fashioned mirrors. Into this joyless den stroll the mechanicals to give us a jolly opening number on their homely instruments (including a washboard and a kettle, all carefully tuned up under Quince's supervision); then, as they are taking a bow, a weird previously unseen spirit erupts in their midst and darts into the wardrobe, slamming the door. The wardrobe thereafter figures as a magic box, as in the stories of Macbeth and C S Lewis, from which the marvels emerge and which they retreat.

Shakespeare's own opening falls distinctly flat after this introduction. Miss Hancock has not made things easier for herself by opting for late nineteenth century costume suggesting a convenience of hotel dormitory, which reduces the Duke's scene with Hermia to that of a head waiter ticking off a maid who has been entertaining followers on the premises. There is also a sense of the director flexing her muscles, and this is evident with the first full sight of the fairies, encircling the studio's outer perimeter with unearthly boots, and then taking the floor in elaborate animal pantomime which there seems small hope of sustaining. However, they do sustain it without obscuring the text, and it even allows individual parts to achieve a rare degree of independence, particularly in the case of Charles Millham's Mustard Seed, a lost boy with sepulchral dignity and a gravelly voice that match his battered top hat.

Pantomime and dance periodically break out throughout the show, reaching a climax in the thrilling drum-accompanied pas de deux for the reunited Oberon and Titania. But such effects invariably grow out of dramatic situation rather than competing with it. Transformation from courtly to woodland nobility works wonders for Penny Downie and Roger Allam, whose Oberon is as commanding as any I have seen. Mr Allam is a honeyed verse speaker, but no sooner has he established that than he side-steps the golden voice trap, reserving pure lyricism for the invocation of magic, and otherwise snapping into a most businesslike relationship with David Whitaker's horned Puck, whom he is apt to hold by the scruff of the neck or lead around by the ear to prevent his winged assistant from being off to commit yet more mistakes.

Precise articulation of changing moods is one of the show's main virtues. Amanda Root's Hermia, for instance, discovering herself alone in the forest, succumbs to a passage of wild-eyed panic; then collects herself and her large Gladstone bag (a prop that seems funnier with every appearance) and trudges gamely off in search of Lysander. The same process operates on the smallest scale, as where the garlanded Bottom (Philip Jackson) announces quite seriously that he had a good ear for music, marks this with a pause, and then asks for the tones and the bones - which Iona Sekacz's unearthly musicians duly supply.

Unfairly, but as always, the comedy is dominated by the Lancashire mechanicals. Under the supervision of Frank Middlemass' Quince, a beaming paternal stage manager driven to distraction by the company's incurable habit of saying Ninny for Ninus, they awaken



Summer flowering of talent: Titania and fairies

the proverbial scenes with an amazing flow of fresh business. George Raistrick's Snout comes on as Wall trembling under his weight of masonry; Mr Jackson remains a scholar, an artisan down to the last death-rattle, while Jimmy Yuill again

displays that the nearly wordless Snug is the funniest part of the lot; apparently a hopeless liability who comes into his own when grasping a horn and blowing his colleagues off stage.

Irving Wardle

Concerts

Searching for a voice

Musica Antiqua of London
Wigmore Hall

By the time you read this we will know whether the Early Music Network may have fallen victim to the Arts Council's new development strategy. I trust not, for this set of concerts by the best ensembles in the field for four around the country is, like the Arts Council's own Contemporary Music Network, an example of enlightened patronage at its best.

That said, the concert of Spanish Renaissance music - the last of this season's tours - is a sombre affair, performed without much conviction or sophistication. The court of Ferdinand and Isabella can scarcely have been as dreary as Musica Antiqua (a London group, not the Cologne baroque ensemble) makes it out to be.

Perhaps the absence of one of their regular versatile instrumentalists imposed some restrictions, but there was rarely much life in the dances, except in the subtlety of Jakob Lindberg's lute-playing, and the noise of the pair of shawms, which must have frightened a few passers-by in Oxford Circus, was crude.

It seemed strange to place the two singers behind this array of noise, for the contributions of Margaret Philipps and Rogers Covey-Crump were the most successful aspect of the programme: supple and flexible singing, quietly sustained. Although I have heard both singers impart more edge and characterization to their voices, they explored some of the darker corners of the palace songbook, especially "Harto de tanta porfia", with concentrated simplicity.

Nicholas Kenyon
Philharmonia/Davis
Festival Hall/Radio 3

It is strange how, occasionally, contrasting jingles seem to agree. Robert Simpson's splendid Fifth Symphony, a welcome presence in the penultimate concert of the Great British Music Festival, comes from the pen of one renowned for his musical conservatism. Yet the impact of this work is strikingly similar to that of the symphonies of an English composer whose language could hardly have been developed more differently. Peter Maxwell Davies.

Both have discovered that there is considerable mileage left in the old Beethovenian symphonic principle of conflict and resolution manifested through contrasts of stasis and rhythm, harmony and counterpoint, tonal anarchy and stability. Simpson's work, written in 1972, makes its points by exhaustive exploitation of motivic cells and by sheer dogged insistence. A single chord, quiet and confident, permeates the arch-form from start to finish. Two violent fast movements frame the structure, and in each Simpson uses the device of fragmentation in order to destroy and rebuild.

Stephen Pettitt

Television

A delicate operation

It has often been said that the women's wards of hospitals are a hot-bed of salacious gossip, and Raspberry (BBC2) tended to confirm that description. "This is surely the most convincing piece of writing a man could ever produce about

women", one critic said of the original stage version. Leaving aside Flaubert and Madame Bovary, one might at least grant that the author, Tony Marchant, has understood that women are far less squeamish

or embarrassed about sexual matters than men. His was a play about the extraordinary things people will tell each other when they are in adjacent hospital beds. Eileen is having an abortion and Chris, the older woman, is being treated for infertility - one is timid and weebone while the other is apparently more assertive. Together they explore the meaning of their lives.

Their dialogue was full of gynaecological and faintly prurient detail ("All systems go", the brisk little nurse explained. This kind of thing is, always taken for granted these days, although the more sex is anatomised, the less interesting it seems).

Television lends such contemporary dramas an air of social realism, especially when they are set in a hospital, although the contrived dialogue (contrived Cockney, at least) and the somewhat artificial situation brought Raspberry very close to the atmosphere of the stage performance from which it has been adapted. As a play it was no doubt effective, but on television it seemed a little too mannered.

Peter Davalle

Peter Ackroyd

WEEKEND CHOICE

One Pair of Eyes (tomorrow, BBC2, 8.05pm) is Professor Laurie Taylor's totally anti-rural diatribe that balances Beryl Bainbridge's mainly anti-urban lament in her current BBC2 series *English Journey*. We are hardly five seconds into the country vistas and Green-leaves music that the professor hates than shots are cut in of the London buses and tidal wave of commuters that he loves.

Tennysen's "profitable intercourse with Nature" finds no reflection in the professor's ramble through landscapes where he complains, people stop where parking allows and not where Nature dictates, and where, unlike the city, there are no exciting corners to turn. Professor Taylor substitutes his own blues for Nature's greens, and it is all such good and

idiosyncratic fun that we don't believe a word of it. Radio drama highlights: Christopher Russell's *Swimmer* (tomorrow, Radio 3, 8.05pm) was part-recorded in a public swimming baths. The acoustic authenticity is important. The tragedy of the crippled youth who adapts himself to a new ideal element, water, and the girl he metamorphoses into a mermaid, has a metaphysical inspiration. But it calls for a realistic resolution if the closing records are to shock - which they do. *Seaplane Out* (tonight, Radio 4, 8.30pm) is dramatized, fact, the story of a British couple's attempt to reclaim their daughter from the Moories who have absorbed her, body and soul. No parent whose holidaying child suddenly becomes a grinning automaton can afford to miss Martin Worth's strong play.

Radio

There is something I have been meaning to say for weeks past, but somehow I had planned, I suppose - I always reach the last allotted word before I say it. So maybe I should say it at the beginning. After a rather painfully wooden start, made worse, I'm sure, by comparison with the sinuous periods of Frank Delaney who preceded him, Hunter Davies has become a thorough asset to Radio 4's *Bookshelf* (Sundays and Thursdays). The difference between his and his first weeks may be nothing more than habituation and consequent relaxation, but it makes all the difference because it allows a well-formed, thoroughly unpretentious and companionable, enthusiasm to shine through.

I thought that Mr Davies's qualities as presenter showed nowhere better than in last week's interviewing of the Duke of Edinburgh. How often when broadcasters talk to royalty do they let it be known by a dozen tiny inflections and turns of phrase that, while on the face of it carrying on as one equal to another, in fact they are psychologically on one knee, if not with tongue to toe of boot. But not here: Mr Davies was as respectful as he ought to be, but not deferential, approaching the occasion for its literary interest, so as to bring out the special

experience of an author as it affected the writing of a book. In short, he sounded much the same as he usually does. You will have noticed - although the page three feature of this week's *Radio Times* may not have done much to help - that Radio 4 is about to embark on another phase of its experiments in restructuring. The dreaded Rollercoaster will become a reality on Thursday, April 5. There are one or two items I view with apprehension, but I don't think I'll tell you what they are for fear of accusations from Broadcasting House that I endeavoured to persuade you to cry "foul" before the whistle had even been blown. In fact, I look forward to next Thursday with a mixture of anticipation and caution.

Meanwhile, the first experiment continues and has tried to smooth out its most noticeable roughness by removing *The Financial World Tonight* from the middle of *The World Tonight* and plunking it down at the end. This is an improvement, but it hasn't done anything to lighten the end of the Radio 4 weekday evening which, if you include *Today in Parliament*, now consists of 90 minutes of unalloyed news and current affairs. Friday, of course, brings *Week Ending* at

David Wade

John Percival

Court of Appeal

Pardon does not remove conviction

Regina v Foster
Before Lord Justice Watkins, Lord Justice May and Mrs Justice Butler-Sloss
[Judgment delivered March 29]

The effect of a free pardon was to remove from the subject of the pardon "all pains penalties and punishments whatsoever" ensuing from a conviction, but did not eliminate in any sense the conviction itself. The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) was asked to consider the effect of a free pardon on the body which had the statutory power to quash a conviction.

The Court of Appeal so held when giving reasons for allowing on March 26 an appeal by Barry Arthur Foster and quashing his convictions (following pleas of guilty) on November 7, 1977 at Nottingham Crown Court (Mr Justice Stephen Brown) of rape and attempted rape of two girls aged 10 years (counts 1 and 4 of the indictment), in respect of which he had been sentenced on February 21, 1978, to unlimited detention under sections 60 and 65 of the Mental Health Act 1959.

Two further counts (of attempting to commit buggery and indecent assault on the same girls - counts 2 and 3) to which the appellant had pleaded not guilty and which had been ordered to lie on the file, were proceeded with before Mrs Justice Butler-Sloss, sitting as a judge of the crown court. No evidence was offered and verdicts of not guilty were recorded in respect of both counts.

Mr John Melville Williams, QC and Mr Oliver Thorold for the appellant; Mr A. J. Arlidge, QC, and Miss Rosamund Horwood-Smart for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS, giving the judgment of the court, said that fortunately for the good name of justice, this was a very unusual story.

The leading figures in it were two men: the appellant and a man named Dennis Pearce. Until 1977 the appellant, who was of low intelligence, was a man of good character. Pearce had an appalling bad criminal record.

Following police inquiries into an incident in which three small girls were indecently assaulted, Pearce first denied but then admitted committing the offences. On December 7, 1981 at Preston Crown Court he pleaded guilty to those offences.

Pearce also pleaded guilty in respect of which the appellant had pleaded guilty to count 1 of the indictment laid against him, and also to the two offences relating to counts 2 and 3.

Peace asked for over 70 similar offences to be taken into consideration, but he denied involvement in the offence of attempted rape which was the subject of count 4 of the indictment against the appellant.

Peace was sentenced to life imprisonment. The only evidence on which the prosecution could rely when they proceeded against the appellant were admissions which he was recorded as having made in a police interview with police following the assaults on the two girls.

It was necessary to say as clearly as possible that at the time they were offered to the court the pleas of guilty had all the appearance of being genuine and they were made without equivocation. A psychiatrist recommended that he needed treatment urgently in conditions of maximum security.

However, the trial of Peace and what he admitted cast a very different light upon the confessions of the appellant, and consequently upon Pearce's confession and subsequent consideration, by police officers and the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Home Secretary was persuaded that the pleas of guilty in respect of counts 1 and 4 of the indictment, and recommended that he be pardoned. So it was that on March 11, 1982 her Majesty granted a free pardon in respect of counts 1 and 4 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968, as amended by section 2(1) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968, as amended by section 44 of the Criminal Law Act 1977. The effect of those provisions was considered in *R. v Lee* (unreported) in which the judgment of the Court of Appeal was given by Lord Justice Ackner on December 9, 1983.

The conclusion of that court was that even though an appeal against conviction was in respect of a conviction brought about by a plea of guilty the court was nonetheless in a position to quash the conviction. Their Lordships respectfully agreed.

Next, their Lordships had to be satisfied that they had the power to admit the new evidence. Under section 23(1) of the 1968 Act their Lordships deemed it necessary and expedient for it to be heard after a

plea of guilty. This case was undoubtedly exceptional. Their Lordships were invited, on the basis of admissions made with the authority of the Director of Public Prosecutions, to quash the conviction on count 1. However, their Lordships had to decide whether there was a conviction upon count 1 to quash, after a free pardon had been granted in respect of it. The effect of a free pardon upon a conviction had not been considered by the courts for very many years. Counsel on both sides had devoted a vast amount of research to the issue.

The definition in law of a pardon, according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, was declared to be a remission, either free or conditional, of the legal consequences of a crime. Many of the extracts their Lordships had been shown from textbooks and articles, some of them written centuries ago tended to support the proposition that a pardon left the existence of a conviction untouched.

Their Lordships have been referred to *R. v Cogswell* (1948) Tass 999 where it was held that a free pardon was not the equivalent of an acquittal. Reference had also been made to *Royal Commission on Thomas* (1980) 1 NZLR 632. On other things, the effect of a pardon was to remove the criminal elements of the offence but not to raise the inference that the person pardoned had not committed the crime.

Their Lordships agreed with what was stated in the Tasmanian and New Zealand cases. The effect of a free pardon was to remove from the subject of the pardon all pains penalties and punishments ensuing from the conviction but not to eliminate the conviction itself.

Mr Arlidge, for the Crown, had referred to a number of practical reasons why that result should follow, and had mentioned the practical disadvantages of it being otherwise. He submitted that constitutionally the Crown no longer had a prerogative of justice, but only a prerogative of mercy. It could not therefore remove a conviction, but only pardon its effects. The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) was the only body which had statutory power to quash a conviction. Their Lordships entirely agreed.

Their conclusion therefore was that the appellant's conviction on count 1 was not removed by a free pardon. It was therefore properly brought and having regard to the fresh evidence which their Lordships had admitted there was no doubt that the conviction should be quashed.

It remained to be said of that conviction that the Home Secretary wished the court to know, as counsel

instructed by the Director of Public Prosecutions stated, that in his opinion the appellant was innocent of that charge.

In relation to count 4 submissions addressed to the court by both counsel led their Lordships to believe that their duty lay only in one direction. It was said that it could not be doubted that the confession made by the appellant on count 1 was untrue. And if he was capable of making that untrue confession, it could not be doubted that he was equally capable of making another false confession. On those facts a jury would conclude that it was unsafe to convict on count 4.

Mr Arlidge supported the argument put forward on the appellant's behalf in this regard and was instructed to invite the court to quash the conviction on count 4. On the facts themselves their Lordships concluded that no jury properly directed could safely come to the conclusion that this appellant was guilty on count 4 of the offence of attempted rape. The conviction accordingly would be quashed.

The appeal, therefore, was allowed in respect of all counts.

Solicitors: Bryan & Armstrong, Mansfield, Director of Public Prosecutions.

George v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis
Before Mr Justice Park
[Judgment delivered March 30]

Exemplary damages of £2,000 were awarded against the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis to Mrs Clementine George, a West Indian-born woman living in Lower Sydenham, London, by Mr Justice Park in the Queen's Bench Division, who said that police witnesses had deliberately lied to the court. Mrs George was awarded a total of £8,030 in her action for trespass and assault after several police officers had forcibly entered her home on September 30, 1980 and assaulted her.

Mr Wilton Hill for the plaintiff; Mr Jeremy Gompertz for the commissioner.

MR JUSTICE PARK said that the plaintiff's son had been identified as having been present with two other coloured youths when a man had been stabbed. However, the victim's girlfriend had had a good view of that incident and had seen that the plaintiff's son had played no part in the attack, but had waited on the scene until the police had arrived.

A misleading entry on a police

crime sheet might have misled the detective sergeant charged with investigating the offence into thinking that the youths had acted in concert, but that officer had interviewed the victim and his girlfriend and must have been told by her that the plaintiff's son was not one of the assailants, and in any event he ought to have known that the son had given his name and address to the officer at the scene.

In the light of *McGrady v Egan* (1933) All ER Rep 611, *Dunwell v Roberts* (1944) 1 All 1, *Shahab Bin Hussain v Chong Fook Kim* (1970) AC 942, and of the information which must have been available to them, the police did not have reasonable cause to believe that the plaintiff's son had been involved in the stabbing offence.

Accordingly, the police did not have power under section 2(4) of the Criminal Law Act 1967 to arrest, nor had they the right under section 2(6) to enter the plaintiff's home at all, let alone by force. While it was reasonable for them to want to interview him, that did not require him to be arrested.

If his Lordship were wrong about that and the police did have power to arrest the plaintiff's son it was necessary to consider whether they

had reasonable cause to believe that he was in the plaintiff's home. She had given evidence that she had told them that he was not there (which was in fact the truth), but that they had told her that she was lying and must have been told by her that the plaintiff's son was not one of the assailants, and in any event he ought to have known that the son had given his name and address to the officer at the scene.

In the light of *McGrady v Egan* (1933) All ER Rep 611, *Dunwell v Roberts* (1944) 1 All 1, *Shahab Bin Hussain v Chong Fook Kim* (1970) AC 942, and of the information which must have been available to them, the police did not have reasonable cause to believe that the plaintiff's son had been involved in the stabbing offence.

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If his Lordship were wrong about that and the police did have power to arrest the plaintiff's son it was necessary to consider whether they

her heels, and had screamed at shouted during the two to three minutes that they were there. The medical evidence was consistent with the plaintiff's account, as was the evidence of a neighbour and another of her sons. His Lordship accepted her evidence in preference to all the police officers. They had deliberately lied to the court about what had happened, concocting false evidence to deflect the plaintiff's justifiable claim. The plaintiff had suffered bruising and tenderness over a number of parts of her body, and although the injuries were now healed she heard a knock at the door. The appropriate figure to compensate for the trespass and assault was £5,000. However, that was not sufficient to punish the defendant for the outrageous behaviour of his officers, and £2,000 would be awarded by way of exemplary damages to mark the court's disapproval of the officers' actions and to stop their repetition by others. There would be judgment for the plaintiff with costs. Solicitors: Sylvester Small & Co, Bristol; Solicitors: Metropolitan Police.

Law Report March 31 1984

Exemplary damages against police

Travnik v Ministry of Defence.
Before Sir Robert Megarry, Vice Chancellor
[Judgment delivered March 28]

In proceedings against the Ministry of Defence by residents of houses adjoining Gatow Airfield in the British sector of West Berlin, claiming that the construction of a shooting range on land there would cause a nuisance to them by excessive noise, such as to injure their health, an application by the residents' statement of claim struck out was allowed by the court but only for procedural reasons, and the making of any order by the court was stayed over pending a further hearing of an amended statement of claim, after a written application had been made to the Attorney General by the residents to leave to add him as a defendant to the action.

Mr John Macdonald, QC and Mr Owen Davies for the residents; Mr John Mummery for the Ministry.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that except for the procedural point the residents seemed to have a very real and substantial grievance. They had tried to sue in the German

courts in Berlin, then again in the High Court in the British sector of Berlin and now here in the High Court in England, where an issue of a certificate by the secretary of state meant that the proceedings should be struck out.

There was no need to be told by the European Convention on Human Rights that it was deplorable that the construction of the shooting range on land there would cause a nuisance to them by excessive noise, such as to injure their health, an application by the residents' statement of claim struck out was allowed by the court but only for procedural reasons, and the making of any order by the court was stayed over pending a further hearing of an amended statement of claim, after a written application had been made to the Attorney General by the residents to leave to add him as a defendant to the action.

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seemed to be the plain injustice of that. The European Convention was not of course law, although it was legitimate to consider its provisions in interpreting the law, and naturally it would be given full weight for that purpose.

So far as concerned the procedural point, the Crown Proceedings Act 1947 and the jurisdiction of the High Court to hear the case were at the centre of the dispute. The residents wanted to rely on the 1947 Act (and especially section 17 relating to those authorised to be made parties to proceedings) as enabling them to sue the Ministry of Defence, as a party, but as there was no statutory authority for the bringing of an action against a defendant of that name, their claim had to fail on procedural grounds since they were precluded from proceeding "under or in accordance with" the Act.

On the other hand, the point of substance of their claim did not appear to be altogether beyond argument. Proceedings for tort under section 40(2)(b) and by the certificate of the secretary of state under section 40(3) since they were

necessarily proceedings "under or in accordance with" the Act, but proceedings for tort could not be pursued outside the Act, relying on the exposure of the Crown to actions in tort by section 2, could be said not to be proceedings "under or in accordance with" the Act, even though it was only by virtue of the Act that they could be brought at all.

The court was not sure that the somewhat remarkable distinction produced by that was enough to make "under or in accordance with" embrace such words as "by virtue of". The court was not sure enough on the point to hold that the statement of claim should be struck out if that ground stood alone, although the court was reluctantly compelled to conclude that it would have to be struck out on the procedural point.

In the result, an application for leave to amend the statement of claim would be deferred until a written application had been made to the Attorney General to add his name as a defendant in the action. No order of the court would be made at the present stage.

Solicitors: Seifert Sedley & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

Special reasons relate to latter offence

Bollister v Gibbons

Where a person was convicted for the second time within ten years of driving with excess alcohol and was thus liable to disqualification for a minimum period of six years by virtue of section 32(4) of the Road Traffic Act 1972, a court, in determining whether special reasons existed justifying disqualification for a shorter period, was required to take into account special reasons which related only to the commission of the latter offence. Lord Justice Kerr and Mr Justice Forbes held in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court on March 29.

Construing covenants

Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District v Kemley-Thurley Ltd and Others

A covenant, like any other contract, was to be construed by reference to the intention of the parties as expressed in their own words and in the circumstances of the whole case. Mr Justice Beldam held in the Queen's Bench Division on March 28.

Procedural bar to hearing grievance

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SPORTING
DIARYOver and out
for John

The Grand National - one of the few major sporting events to be held without Bolero being played - takes off this afternoon, and it could well be John Francome's last appearance in the race. Francome, the top National Hunt jockey and fish and chip shop owner, has often stated his intention of retiring before the dangers of this most terrifying of sports catch up with him.

He has never won a National, though has won just about everything else, and the only target left is beating Stan Mellor's record of career winners - 1,055. Francome should manage that this season. He partners Citter, the 1982 winner, in this race. His mother will, as is his custom, look herself in the mirror while this most dangerous of races is being run; indeed there was talk last year of a Francome fund to stop the National being saved. This column has a fancy for Eliogaby.

The flat racing season is back with us again, praise the Lord, which means it is time for us all to start looking up on our Airs, as the splendid chaps continue to pour their petro-dollars into British racing. Names of the horses will continue to be a problem for us: Shaikh Nohammed has named one horse Nohammed after his favourite camel.

Sinking feeling

Where was that old Bristol stalwart John Pullin on the glorious day when his team beat Harlequins in the semi-final of the John Player Cup? Said to say, he was eventually spotted slowly sinking into the mud in the middle of the pitch at Nottingham, a damp and bedraggled rugby player gallantly explaining for the benefit of HTV viewers, why there was no play possible in the other semi-final when Nottingham failed to play Bath.

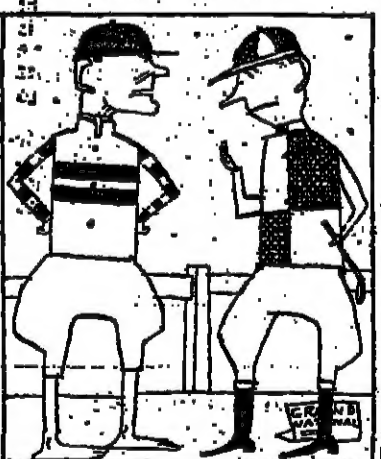
Ouzot?

Could a young cricketer from Corfu called Costas Vassilas force himself into an English County side? Might we hear the mighty roar of "Howdah!" bursting from Greek lungs at Lord's? Might his anguish at a decision of "Chisnot" be seen at Trent Bridge? Vassilas, aged 18, was at Lord's all last week being coached in the indoor nets and could get some ground staff games if he returns in the summer. He bats (highest score 75 in a Corfu 33 over match) and bowls turning the ball square on Corfu's matting wickets (best figures 7 for 50). He has set his heart on becoming the first Corfiot professional cricketer in England, and they say he's in with a chance.

Flights of fancy

Princess Anne shares my own morbid fascination with big-time darts, and those doughty men who never lack stomach for the fight. But she knows when to draw the line. She let slip her enthusiasm for arriers in an interview on the radio, and quick as a flash, the British Darts Organization invited her to attend one of their major events, to give her the privilege of seeing Eric, Jocky and the lads in the flesh, as it were. Wisely, and with immense politeness, she was forced to decline. Unabashed, the B.D.O. plan to ask her again.

BARRY FANTONI



Monkey trick

Goal-scoring does seem to involve as awful lot of air-punching and kissing of chaps these days, but even the Football Association is of the opinion that Glyn Riley went a little over the top when he celebrated a recent goal. He made a remarkable simian ascent of the railings in order to salute his fans. The FA told him it was time to steady on a bit.

There might yet be a Huddle at Wembley this season, despite the eclipse of Tottenham Hotspur and their darling midfielder Glenn Huddle. Glenda's uncle Dave Huddle is assistant manager of Stansted, who play Wickham today in an FA Vase semi-final second leg match. A good win will send Stansted to Wembley.

Hongkong hound

Les Cusworth is not the first rugby-playing Irishman that springs to mind. But Cusworth, much capped for England, is playing for the Irish Wolfhounds R.F.C. team that contests the Hongkong sevens tournament this weekend.

Simon Barnes

George Walden on Hongkong and Falklands parallels

The dangers of digging in

Two years after the invasion, the Falklanders are as safe as the day the last Argentine withdrew. But their real security depends on the stability of opinion in Britain. The Falkland Islanders lobby is alive and alert for any signs of backsliding. But there is now a British Islanders lobby, too. It is composed mainly of people who were not against the war, and know the price of peace. But they are disturbed by a nagging sense of disproportion. The new lobby grows every time some item of equipment to sustain the Falklanders is paraded across our TV screens with price tag attached. It grows when we are reminded that the cost to date is £1m per inhabitant. It will grow again when a deal with China over Hongkong is announced.

These doubts can still be silenced by a simple question: how do you compare the cost of the defence of sovereign territory? Yet, as the war recedes, the strength of this and other apparently unanswerable arguments could glib with it.

To the layman, sovereignty seems an absolute concept: you either have it, or don't. If you do, you keep it, especially if the population wants you to. Yet later this month, Sir Geoffrey Howe will be negotiating with the Chinese in Peking about Hongkong. Why are we contemplating "giving away" the sovereignty of Hongkong Island? For the most practical of reasons: you give away what you have and you can have only what you can hold. And we cannot hold Hongkong. In politics, as in ordinary life, most absolutes are rather relative.

The Falklands, technically speaking, like Hongkong Island, are ours

in perpetuity. But our ability to hold them is relative, too. This is not because the island cannot be defended - they can, indefinitely. But only at staggering cost.

Self-determination is another absolute which is easily relativized. There are good reasons for its not applying in Hongkong, and, anyway, the Chinese would not stand for it. But self-determination in the Falklands cannot be a dogma either, for different reasons. Don Pacifico and *civis romanus* are all very well, but the British mind would presumably reject a situation in which the last farmer on the island might decide on his own account to stay, thus incurring the massive costs of his defence. At what number between 1,800 and one does the principle of self-determination cease to operate?

Absolute refusal to discuss sovereignty is a relatively recent phenomenon. Within a few years, we have gone from a readiness to countenance lessback to reluctantly insisting on sovereignty. During that period, in a purely legal sense, nothing has changed; in real life the situation could hardly be more different. A criminally irresponsible invasion resulted in 255 British dead. In political terms, that alone justifies a reversion to absolutist attitudes.

It also shows that it is the practical political context that predominates. This context is now evolving rapidly, in three ways. The Argentine regime has changed for the better: feelers are out on both sides. Second, though our own ability and will to defend the islanders has not changed, the full extent of the cost is only beginning to emerge. Lastly, and most importantly, there is a noticeable evolution in public opinion. Recognition of the paramountcy of the wishes of the islanders is one thing, but in the last resort, it is the British people and Parliament that are paramount. The Falkland Islanders are now all full British citizens, too.

This new context is already increasing the pressure on the Government to compromise. But governments exist to lead, as well as to be led, and there are moments when decency matters at least as much as political expediency.

There is something mildly indecent about being asked to give the Argentines today what they tried to seize by force two years ago, just because they are now asking nicely. The new regime is only months old, in a country with a history of chronic political instability. This is not a reason for British obduracy.

But you cannot begin a long process of negotiation by melting at the first smile.

What can we do? It is now often suggested that the ball is in our court. In fact the Argentines' court is littered with balls that could take years for them to return.

Yet the British Government must have a positive policy - otherwise the whole issue could turn sour. It would be damaging to the sense of national purpose shown during the war itself if domestic recrimination were to follow the euphoria of victory. People understand that sovereignty cannot just be slapped back on to the table. But if it dawns on them that there really is no end to the dispute or the expenditure, even though Argentina continues to behave responsibly, the erosion of public support for the Falklanders could gather pace.

We are well dug in militarily; there is no need for us to dig ourselves in too deeply politically. What we should do is to reiterate tirelessly that it is up to the Argentines to change the broader context in the long term. They need to prove to us, and to the Falklanders themselves, that they are reasonable people with honourable intentions. After what they did that will take time. We can help the Argentines to help themselves by not appearing unresponsive. But it is for them to conciliate us, not vice versa.

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The author, Conservative MP for Buckingham, was Private Secretary to Lord Carrington when he was Foreign Secretary.

Roy Strong

Pomp and new circumstances



Edward Elgar, left, the composer who became a cult, and Sir Adrian Boult who did so much to promote his music

As I left church the other Sunday, a neighbour smiled and said she was still in a haze from the celebration in Hereford Cathedral to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Elgar's death. Memories of that composer run deep in the Herefordshire-Worcestershire countryside. The widow of his organist lives in the neighbourhood; he is supposed to have visited our house, and he had, we were told, a reputation for pinching the maida.

I don't think anyone in the post-war period could have predicted the enormous resurgence of interest in his music that was to occur in the 1970s, or that he was to emerge as such a cult figure. For, like so many people in the arts, Elgar the person, the reality, is so different from Elgar the myth, the idea. In the long run it is the latter which matters, for he now occupies an unassailable position in our national musical mythology akin to that of Handel.

In 1952, my wife, who was then a student at the Royal College of Art, did the outline and designs for a ballet based on the *Enigma Variations*. Sir Hugh Casson arranged for these to be left at the stage-door of the Royal Opera House to be seen by Dame Ninette de Valois. Six months later she collected them, not thinking that they had been seen by anyone until more than a decade later. Sir Frederick Ashton telephoned her to say that the time was right to do the ballet. This, in itself a romantic story, was accompanied by the comment that in the mid-1950s the pendulum had not swung in that direction. The triumphant reception of the masterpiece in 1968 inaugurated the upward curve of the Elgar graph. In the same year, Michael Kennedy published his biography.

At first glance it is odd that as the swinging 1960s entered their apogee this should be so. In retrospect, however, it is hardly surprising. Although there had been a post-war neo-Edwardian revival in men's clothes and interior decoration, it had certainly not extended beyond that. One thinks of Norman Parkinson's photograph of three dandies in their curled bowlers and velvet-collared coats. With that we were at the tail end of something which could be put back. The Edwardian cult of the 1970s in contrast was never a style. It was nostalgia for what had become a

vanished arcadia of peace and security before the First World War. The fact that the ballet still figures in the repertoire after 15 years is an index of the continuing potency of the image.

The revival of interest in Elgar runs like a flood through the 1970s, even leading to performances of his music abroad. Sir Adrian Boult's memorable appearances to conduct in his eighties, were almost exclusively devoted to Elgar. The graph runs parallel with the obsession for the Edwardian age, which, as the decade progressed, reached a crescendo in the gloom-laden years after 1974. It was a period marked by the rediscovery of life in the Edwardian country house, the film *The Gables*, Edwardian costume serials on television, an endless series of books of photographs depicting Edwardian England and its social life, even the society portraits of Sargent suddenly reentered their spell. In 1977, there appeared a book which at any other time would have sunk without trace but sold in millions, *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*.

Which brings me back to Elgar, for his music above that by any other is now locked into this distant, patriotic idyll of pre-1914 sunset splendour. As an index to the change, Edward J. Dent in 1930 accorded only 16 lines to Elgar in a musical history compared to 66 to Parry and 41 to Stanford. He castigated his music as being "too emotional and not quite free from vulgarity. His orchestral works... are animated in colour but pompous in style and of too deliberate nobility of expression".

That I cannot countenance upon, for I am no musician. What interests me is the interrelationship of ideas and images that sustain the revival in the 1960s when the promoters burst into "Land of Hope and Glory", in the midst of *Pomp and Circumstance*, there was a degree of mocking to the ritual. No one in recent years could make that accusation. That is because the references and allusions that his music evokes have changed over the years from being a symbol of imperial, insular, jingoism to Arcadian visions of the serenity of a golden age.

Sir Roy Strong is director of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Paul Jennings

Ideal - but must we mow the carpet?

Always the same around this time of year. My nice, post-commuter-rush train is crammed with strangers. The bar has long snaking queue of solemn couples all clutching colour brochures.

Of course. Ideal Home Exhibition. Must end April 1. Tomorrow. Not before time. The brochures show vast bedrooms with carpets apparently made from Old English sheepskins, bathrooms where everything square and same colour, even loo seat (who has square bottom, for Pete's sake?), kitchens with lots of empty shining flat surfaces on one of which slim smiling model is preparing meal apparently from two carrots, one green pepper and a small slice Camembert.

No wonder the slim, but will husband smile when he comes home and they sit down to eat on glass chairs at glass table? (Don't be silly. Husband? These days?)

Nothing against Ideal Home as such, except lurking fear would have to mow and roll bedroom carpet once a month. But how do they keep it ideal?

How (for instance) they keep all those flat surfaces clear in kitchen? In our house no empty flat surface anywhere, especially in kitchen. All covered with old magazines, halves of cameras, bottle with three dead-looking olives, cheese with bowl upside-down over it to keep cats off. Odd socks kept there in hope matching ones will turn up magically some day, spike with bills up to Oct 1980, bits of old mincer (not throw away, other bits about somewhere, perhaps in tool draw where - good Lord, here is little screwdriver, stuck to empty paper with pink paint (it supposed to live in fuse-cupboard), radio which will only go when lying on side...

While couples are leaving, wordlessly, or low-murmuring, through brochures, reflect that whenever have been self to exhibition, have never seen furniture, carpets, etc. that wanted, but could suggest many things that would surely make own home fractionally near ideal for example:

Brass Magnet. That is, magnet which would attract brass and other non-ferrous metal from which wretched little screws, always falling out of complicated electric plugs, are made.

Instant Infra-red Football Shirt. Gym Things etc. Drier. Answer to panic aid dialogue. "It's football today, where's my shirt?" "Why didn't you tell me last night, it's still wet." Would dry the perishing thing in five seconds.

Automatic Tap Turner-back. My family either weak-wristed or just forgetful; anyway always finding hot water has dribbled away at night. But don't want taps you actually have to hold down against painful spring, like the ones in train loos.

These would have built-in spring wind-back of some sort.

Phone Howler. No use asking Telecom for this, they want manager to gas away for hours. But it surely not beyond wit of British electronic wizards to invent something you can hide in room, activated by dialling, it let out fearful scream after pre-set time. I'd settle for ten minutes, you mustn't think I'm mean.

Rising Bed. Switch it on when you first call teenager. After you been yelling from downstairs for quarter of hour too half folds up to vertical, after five more minutes whole thing tips on to side. In fact wouldn't mind bed like that for self, let alone children.

Bleep Tool Kit. Would compel anyone who took pliers, gimlet, small screwdriver etc., to return it to proper place, because it would bleep until they did. Have actually seen ads for golf balls that bleep when lost in long grass. Why not for little screwdrivers, of which have bought 97 since married?

Ideal Home Exhibition Perpetual Calendar Reminder. So that can remember to get different train, like Of George and Of Cyril (if they are here, can't see them in crush). No, no, what am I saying? So that can remember to go next time of course, see if any ideas like these taken up.

Artistic fruits of the Rees-Mogg garden

The first thing to be said about the Arts Council's new proposals for increasing aid to the arts outside London, unveiled yesterday at 103 Piccadilly, is that every single one of the principal predictions that in the past few weeks have confidently dominated discussion of the subject was wrong. The Arts Council has not withdrawn the subsidy it gives to the Royal Court Theatre; it has not given up the Hayward Gallery; it has not thrown the Serpentine Gallery into the Serpentine, nor the Riverside Studios into the river, it has not closed its Literature Department, it has not abolished the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, or demolished the Wigmore Hall. I cannot remember when there was last so complete a failure on the part of so many newspapers to do anything but print gossip as though it was fact; in particular, if the Editor of *The Guardian* still has an interest in the repute of his paper, he should do something very drastic indeed about the standard of the arts reporting he has been getting.

But there has been something even more fundamental involved in the speculation about what might emerge from the Arts Council's thoroughgoing review of its strategy and determination to improve the funding of regional arts activities. Beneath all the discussion of the forthcoming changes, in which Sir William Rees-Mogg has been cast as Robespierre and Mr Luke Rintner as St. Just (or possibly the pair of them as Burke and Hare), has been the unspoken, but unshaken conviction that there not only should be, but actually is, an unlimited amount of funds available for the arts, provided from tax revenue, by a generous Treasury in response to the highest wish expressed by the Minister for the Arts, so that if for any reason this belief should prove to be mistaken, it is all the fault of the minister and the Arts Council, not demanding enough loudly enough.

Even Lord Goodman, a very distinguished and successful chairman of the Arts Council in his day, fell into this trap in his *Observer* article on the Council's strategy, though I am by no means sure that even he had not done so his article would have carried quite as much conviction as he might have wished, in view of his extraordinary claim that "no new concert hall has been built in this country since 1931". (He hastily contradicted himself nine lines later, when he remembered the Barbican, but that still leaves the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, which in 1937 replaced the 1931 building that Lord Goodman knew about, the post-war First Trade Hall, Manchester, the St David's Hall in Cardiff, the Wyvern Arts Centre in Swindon, the Snape Maltings, and that matter the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room.)

Of course, the belief that resources are infinite in a finite world is the basis of very widespread attitudes to the welfare of the general and the National Health Service in particular. But among no group is it more strongly and instinctively believed than it is by the people responsible for the scores of arts companies, institutions and projects funded by



by Bernard Levin

public money, and those in charge of the hundreds of such bodies which believe that they ought to be.

It was against this background that Messrs Rees-Mogg & Rintner, Butcher and Poulterers to the Century, led the Arts Council into and through a radical reappraisal of its role. And the main thrust of what is proposed is one which it is simply impossible to turn aside: the correction of the grotesque and indefensible imbalance between the public money spent on the arts in London and in the rest of the country. Of course, the capital should be, and since the end of the Second World War has been, an international metropolis of the arts. Not only would it be impossible for many artistic centres, including some of the country's greatest and most successful, to survive and work outside London; the concentration of institutions in London has itself been a fruiting force.

To the creation of this "artistic metropolis", the Arts Council has contributed massively, and there is no disposition on the part of the Council (I am assuming that Sir William wrote the report himself - it has his style throughout, including the references to Pope and Locke) to regret this; on the contrary, it is plainly a matter for great pride. And yet, as the report says, "We live as two artistic nations - London and everywhere else". And he illustrates this accusation with some powerful evidence.

No theatre company based entirely in the regions enjoys an Arts Council subsidy equal to one-tenth of that given to either of the two national theatre companies, the National Theatre or the Royal Shakespeare Company. Most receive less than a fifth.

For some time now, the Arts Council has been quietly refusing to add to its list of client companies in London, even when funds have been available; the money has gone to the rest of the country. Now, however, the reasoning behind this *ad hoc* policy is to be made an explicit principle, which will guide the Arts Council's policy from now on. Of course, the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, the Wakefield Theatre, the Wakefield Theatre Company and the Handel Opera Society will declare, and I am sure passionately believe, that the withdrawal of their subsidies means that the Visigoths have triumphed, that all civilized life in Britain will shortly come to an end, and that when Sir William hears the word of the provincial companies which have lost their grants will say all that and in addition will insist that the Arts Council is only giving with one hand and taking with the other. This claim cannot survive a reading of the whole document; the strategy of strengthening the Regional Arts Associations (those companies which are to be devolved from the Arts Council to the regions will travel with their grants intact) is only part of the remarkable new thinking about the imbalance between regions as well as between London and the regions as a whole.

It is this continuing scandal that the Arts Council has at last set out to rectify.

This document announces the largest single programme of devolution in the history of the Arts Council. It is a genuine and major act of administrative decentralization, a step back from centralized bureaucracy as a mode of administering the arts in Great Britain.

For some time now, the Arts Council has been quietly refusing to add to its list of client companies in London, even when funds have been available; the money has gone to the rest of the country. Now, however, the reasoning behind this *ad hoc* policy is to be made an explicit principle, which will guide the Arts Council's policy from now on. Of course, the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, the Wakefield Theatre, the Wakefield Theatre Company and the Handel Opera Society will declare, and I am sure passionately believe, that the withdrawal of their subsidies means that the Visigoths have triumphed, that all civilized life in Britain will shortly come to an end, and that when Sir William hears the word of the provincial companies which have lost their grants will say all that and in addition will insist that the Arts Council is only giving with one hand and taking with the other. This claim cannot survive a reading of the whole document; the strategy of strengthening the Regional Arts Associations (those companies which are to be devolved from the Arts Council to the regions will travel with their grants intact) is only part of the remarkable new thinking about the imbalance between regions as well as between London and the regions as a whole.

It remains only to observe that he who pricks the bubble must provide the soap. Those who now denounce the Arts Council's new strategy (we can ignore those who denounced it before they knew what it was), must be challenged to say how they would have gone about reducing the disparity between London and the rest of the country, and from which companies and organizations they would have withdrawn subsidy, instead of those the Arts Council have chosen, in order to provide the funds needed to do something about the disparity. If such alternative proposals are seriously put forward, a real and useful debate can be started. If they are not, all we need do to those who attack the Council's plan without offering an alternative is to quote the poem of Kipling from which the title of the Arts Council's report is taken:

Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made By singing - "Oh, how beautiful" and sitting in the shade. While better men that we go out and start their working lives At grubbing weeds from gravel-paths with broken dinner-knives.

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Friends, Romans, clients....

New words for old/Philip Howard

partner in office. But etymological origins need not bind us in the way we choose to use words today. The objection of the blanket use of colleague is the snobbish one given in the *OED*: "Not applied to partners in trade or manufacture." It is that the categorical alternatives convey a greater identity of purpose about the activity in which those concerned are engaged.

Comrades in a regiment fight in a common cause, protect each other's flanks, bind each other's wounds and so on. Shipmates go to sea together. Accomplices confederate in their nefarious activities. But your old cuckoo colleagues may talk of and to each other "with the greatest respect", and quietly put the boot in the next opportunity: the thing that comrades, shipmates, and

perhaps even accomplices ought not to do.

Euphemism and preference for a posh word also causes the cuckoo-dom of client, for example to refer to the raw material of the social worker's profession. I should have thought that an essential feature of the modern relationship between a professional and his or her client was that the client is the boss, and that he can hire, fire, and sue the professional.

This is not true of a person who is being worked over by a social worker, for the initiative is not with him. In fact the social worker has no "client", but is rather in the position of a barrister whose clients are other lawyers, viz. the solicitors acting for plaintiff or defendant. In

the case of social workers, their clients are the local or other authorities, who refer to them the problems of people who are having difficulty in their relationship with society.

Unfortunately, I am not sure what other word to suggest. "Case" is impersonal. "Patient" is too medical. "Victim" is a bit harsh. Perhaps "dissembler" or "outsider".

If you want to justify "client" you can do it by going back to the Roman derivation. A client was under the protection of a patron in the complex tribal society of Rome. He was etymologically a listener, literally a person who is at another's call. But that was 20 centuries ago. And I am not sure that the social workers were the implication that their clients are their servants, at their beck and call.



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ART ON A BROADER CANVAS

Poets are licensed to juggle with ambiguity, but administrators, even in the purlieus of the arts, risk being misunderstood if they attempt the many-layered approach. To avoid confusion, let it be well understood that the Arts Council's latest report, *The Glory of the Garden*, is not as readers familiar with some of its recent predecessors might well assume from the title, a sumptuous publication with a full-colour depiction of our principal national shrine of opera on the cover. Sir William Rees-Mogg's *Garden* is not that *Garden* at all, and indeed a certain pursing of the lips in the document when the latter is mentioned shows that he considers it to have got off more lightly this year, through the favour of the Government, than he himself might have wished. The true reference, quoted by Bernard Levin opposite, is of very different import.

The format of Arts Council reports has always been a subtle indicator of morale. Until recently they resembled the glittering catalogues of major Hayward Gallery exhibitions or the programmes of distinguished regional music festivals; in the fifties they tended to be small and matt, printed in one colour, but enlivened with abstract designs expressive of hope. Modest or sumptuous, their titles always expressed a sense of financial insecurity: "Arts in the Red", "The Struggle for Survival" or "The Arts in Hard Times" (perhaps the most sumptuous of all). The present publication is different on all counts: it has the studied drabness that sometimes goes with confidence; it resembles the company report of a small but very well-based provincial brewery, or the official guide to a ruined abbey of which very few

traces remain, but whose historic significance is unassailable.

It is one of the most remarkable paradoxes of the Thatcher era that the Arts Council has arrived at a point where it can afford not to be twitchy or self-assertive about its stock-in-trade. For most of its history there has been an underlying anxiety about the claims of the arts to public subsidy - to their status with hospital beds and pensions as part of the welfare state. But now, when the welfare state itself is acutely under question, the argument over the arts seems (at least temporarily) to have been won. At its most monetarist phase, the perceived party of the Philistines has accepted the case forcefully made out by a parliamentary report in 1982 and the Priestley report last year that the arts are respectable after all - earners of dollars, providers of employment, meeting (at minimal cost in relative public expenditure terms) a widespread and strongly-felt public demand.

Since a large part of the value of the arts in entertaining and stimulating the public derives from its propensity to feuds and follies, it is reassuring that the new subtext of the report conceals only imperfectly an intense scene of infighting. Widely accused of seeking the powers of a Stalinist Minister of Culture, Sir William has failed by a long way to achieve all he sought. He has failed to shift more than a mere five per cent more of the Council's expenditure from London to the provinces, and he has failed to get off his hands those metropolitan clients like the Hayward Gallery and the Royal Court which have proved capable of mounting so ferocious a defensive lobby in recent weeks.

One need not regret this failure altogether. The Council has from the start been aware of

a tension between its objectives of promoting the best and promoting accessibility. In some parts of the country, arts subsidy per head is only one-ninth of what Londoners enjoy. The example of Germany is often reproachfully mentioned, where every major provincial centre sustains the arts in their most raffined and expensive expressions, and where diversity of patronage makes for vitality.

This degree of regional pride is certainly something to be wished for in Britain, and something that the Council should promote. It has indeed done so from the start. Covent Garden and the London Coliseum together absorb 17 per cent of the Council's budget, and it may well be argued that in principle this is too much. But in 1956, when the first of the Regional Arts Associations was founded, the same organizations were taking well over half the total.

There are natural constraints on the pace of redressing the imbalance between London and the provinces. Germany has a tradition of independent princely domains, while the British have looked towards London as a centre for centuries. It would be unwise to wind London down too abruptly, threatening valuable living traditions that cannot easily be rebuilt. And though the Government appears to have accepted the case for protecting the regional arts from the effects of the abolition of metropolitan councils, the political situation in local government is too highly charged and too uncertain at present to inject into it too many extra contentions about arts support. The movement is in the right direction; the pace has rightly been accelerated; but the best gardeners know that the due time and season for successful replanting cannot be hurried.

HAVOC, BUT NOT YET ANARCHY

In eight and a half hours on Thursday Liverpool city council failed completely to order its financial affairs. Who would not now cry a plague on all three of the party's local houses, their petty squabbling, procedural trickery, and rhetoric more suited to a provincial Russian soviet than a chamber which once listed the Gladstones among its ornaments? By contrast, television offered the sight of Mr Jenkin, stolid as ever, promising firm central authority. Standing in the wings, he hinted, still at some distance from the stage, is a civil servant with a commission to stop the vagaries of local administration causing financial jeopardy.

That municipal services could be run or rates levied by an appointee of central government is not at issue. The ranks of uniformed Merseyside constables guarding the town hall the other day would turn out again if need be. Municipal employees have no great love for elected politicians; besides, they are likely to value their pay cheques more than calls to solidarity from Mr Derek Hatton. Yet the suspension of local elected government, necessary though it might become in Liverpool, should be anticipated by no one. For those disturbed by the untidiness of local politics, its promise of administrative rationality is a delusion. For all concerned with the ability of the British to govern them-

selves, even in the extremities of Merseyside, it would be an irreparable defeat.

For the failure of local representative self-government damages the polity as a whole. Accretion of power to the centre is rarely reversed; a Liverpool commissioner would stay and might multiply. And it is delusion to think that he would bring the end of untidy politics.

Thankfully, local politics in Liverpool is not exhausted; messy compromise could still save the city from the unflinching revolutionaries of Labour's left. Next week's financial dislocation should not be underestimated; nor should the difficulties of Liberal, Conservative and moderate Labour councillors in reaching an accord. Yet were there to be an emergency council meeting within a fortnight, a budget could be drafted by the minorities. In this Mr Jenkin could surely help. Since 1981 Liverpool has, rightly, been the focus of an array of programmes concerned with ameliorating a blighted urban landscape. These are relatively flexible; already Mr Jenkin adjusts the expenditure of the council on "partnership projects" that some payments do not count for the city's financial control target.

Mr Jenkin has said he can do nothing singular. But there is regional discretion in other ministerial briefs, notably through the Manpower Services Commission. In the weeks before the May elections all

sides, including the Government, have a stake in seeing politics working again.

Labour could, it appears, block an emergency budget meeting. Mr Hatton wishes to save his class-war appeals for the elections in a month's time. Whether action in the courts could force Labour's hand before then is open to doubt. The District Auditor might have an uphill task in convincing a High Court judge of the unreasonableness of the (whole) council's delay in making a rate; the auditor shows no sign yet of rushing for judgment. Other options are covered by the deep waters of finance legislation framed for the converse of Liverpool's position - for councils which have made a questionable rate, not for councils which, questionably, have made no rate.

The verdict of Liverpoolians at the polls in May takes on symbolic weight. A strengthening of Mr Hatton's hand - if Labour won extra seats - could push the city from its present disarray into overt law-breaking. At that point there will be demands, some from within Liverpool itself, for the imposition of central authority. Yet the self-checking mechanisms of auditors and courts will have something on which to bite. And then, as now, there will be the strongest cases for caution on the part of government ministers, for faith in the local political process, for tolerance of municipal marathons.

STONES THROWN FROM A GLASS HOUSE

It is a matter of justifiable pride that the rights of the individual are so stalwartly defended in the British media. But this self-satisfaction should not blind us to the criticisms of our foreign colleagues. The *Levesiteya* correspondent in London cites a British miner's warning that "England is turning into a police state" and describes for his readers how the police delayed a convoy of miners' cars driving down a motorway to the Nottinghamshire pits. Moscow Radio interviewed the leader of the Soviet Miners' Union, Mikhail Srebnny, who wished the men "having to take part in pickets and fight for their rights every success in their cause".

Soviet miners enjoy higher wages than other workers in the USSR, but they would still be impressed to learn that striking miners in Britain have their own cars to drive from picket to picket. Soviet workers are not allowed to strike or to move around the country to demonstrate against government policy. When the Donbass miner Vladimir Klebanov tried to form a genuine trade union independent of the regime, he was incarcerated in a psychiatric hospital. Last year Lev Volokhonsky was sentenced to five years' hard labour plus four years' internal exile for circulating the Information Bulletin of the free trade-union movement.

Yet the Soviet media strongly deplored "the reprisal of the British courts against Sarah Tisdall, an active participant in the struggle for peace and former employee at the British Foreign Office". Of course the very fact that someone who leaked documents relating to the state's missile defences was merely "thrown behind bars for six months" would seem to Soviet citizens an example of extraordinary judicial leniency. And for an editor to be able to publish such a document without being arrested must seem an even more amazing demonstration of political liberty.

In Kiev on 13 March Valery Marchenko was sentenced to ten years' hard labour plus five years' internal exile for writing articles critical of the Soviet regime - for which he might have been forgiven since he was at the time already in prison for his beliefs. Smuggled from the camp, his statements were published in the West. During his trial - postponed from the previous day because of his poor health - he declared that he had always tried to do what was right and would continue to speak out against the faults of the Soviet system.

The USSR Constitution allows freedom of speech and of the press, but only "in accordance with the interests of the people

and in order to strengthen and develop the socialist system" and it is of course the top party leaders who determine what the "interests of the people" are. Last February the laws on anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda were extended to cover not only preparing, disseminating and keeping anti-Soviet literature, but also any suspect materials "in written, printed or other forms". The punishments for such "crimes" were increased.

A new article was introduced banning the passing on to a foreign country of "information that constitutes a professional secret", no matter how the information is acquired. Telling tourists or Western correspondents about meat rationing in the provinces could therefore result in a stiff sentence. That citizens should be guided in their actions by their consciences is an essential part of democracy, but it is equally to be expected that society impose limits on the freedom of the individual when the exercise of that freedom infringes on the welfare of others. Deciding where these limits lie can only be possible with unrestricted public debate, which the Tisdall case has shown to be alive and well in Britain. The media and the moribund society of the USSR can still learn much of value here.

'Taiwan status' for Hongkong

From Mr Roderick MacFarquhar
Sir, In the historic decision of Jardine, Matheson to move its legal base from Hongkong to Bermuda (March 29) is not to trigger other transfers and a precipitate slump in confidence. The Foreign Secretary has to tell the Chinese on his forthcoming visit that Hongkong needs to be granted "Taiwan status" as a guarantee of the post-colonial future.

The Chinese Premier has promised Taiwan that, after reunification, Peking would send no representatives, administrators, or soldiers to the island and would impose no taxes or levies. The island regime would run the place as it does today.

Hongkong should be given the same treatment minus the British Raj. Much has apparently been conceded, but the problem of representation remains.

Concretely, this would mean the withdrawal from Hongkong of the high-ranking official who heads the official Chinese news agency establishment, together with most of his staff. Already the present incumbent is seen as a shadow Governor and after 1997 he will be more powerful than the old British Resident in Indian princely states.

The Bank of China branch should also be reduced in status if not in function. The Communist Party would have to treat Hongkong as a "no-go" area on the understanding that Taiwan's Nationalist Party would be prohibited.

"Taiwan status" for Hongkong should not only reassure the colony; it would also give Peking the opportunity of using the "Hongkong model" to demonstrate to Taiwan how peaceful reunification would be.

Yours faithfully,
RODERICK MACFARQUHAR,
15 Campden Hill Road, W8,
March 29.

Eritrean struggle

From Mr Winston S. Churchill, MP for Darlington (Conservative).

Sir, You are to be congratulated on your editorial, "A blind eye in Africa" (March 14), drawing attention to the plight of the people of Eritrea who are still carrying on their 11-year-old struggle for independence from Ethiopia with which against the wishes of its people - it was incorporated in consequence of the action of the United Nations.

It is utterly shameful the way in which the world organization has resolutely refused to reconsider its hasty and wrongful decision, taken in defiance of the principles of the UN Charter itself. In consequence of this and of the oppression by Ethiopia, in recent years supported by Cuban troops and other Soviet "military advisers", more than 50,000 Eritreans are estimated to have been slaughtered in the conflict and a further half-million driven into exile.

A similar fate has attended the Somali peoples of the Ogaden, who were also, against their wishes, handed over to Ethiopia again: tens of thousands have died in the conflict and well over 1.4 million forced to flee to Somalia proper from their traditional grazing lands.

How many more lives have to be needlessly sacrificed, how many more millions forced to flee as refugees, before the United Nations and indeed the OAU recognise that it is wholly inadequate merely to minister to an ever-growing refugee population, but that the time has come for the problem to be tackled at its roots by recognizing the rights to self-determination of those who, without consultation and against their wishes, were forcibly included within the confines of the Ethiopian Empire, while the Soviet Union is using as the principal base for its military and strategic domination of the Horn of Africa, regardless of the cost in terms of loss of life and human misery?

Yours faithfully,
WINSTON S. CHURCHILL,
House of Commons,
March 23.

Chiswick green

From the Secretary of The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

Sir, John Harris (March 24) rightly draws attention to the deplorable record of the Property Services Agency in caring for some of the country's finest buildings and wonders how much will change with the arrival of the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission next week.

Of course one cannot condemn the commission before it has even started work. But there are already some worrying hints that it may be difficult about making full use of its new freedom to challenge, where necessary, the Government department from which it has emerged and on which it will depend for grant aid.

This contrasts sharply with the Manpower Services Commission, which was set up in a broadly similar manner 10 years ago to take over many of the responsibilities of the Department of Employment. Right from the outset it threw away a crumpled Civil Service mentality, took risks and made its criticisms loudly and publicly. Some saw it as unnecessarily abrasive, but it achieved much in a remarkably short time.

On some issues, such as the commercialization of sites and monuments, caution by the HBMC may be no bad thing. But a new body that chooses not to become a vigorous, authoritative and independent voice for the country's heritage loses much of its justification.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP VENNING, Secretary,
The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings,
37 Spital Square, E1,
March 24.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Needs and choices in social context

From Mr Geoffrey Sampson

Sir, Professor Denbigh's defence of public spending (March 28) confuses a number of entirely separate issues. On one hand he points out that there are certain goods and services which by their nature can only be supplied publicly rather than via the market. Liter-free streets and development control in the countryside might come under this heading; but several other things he mentions manifestly do not. For instance, there is no reason why the provision of lending libraries or theatres should not be controlled by market forces; if it proved impossible to run any library or unsubsidized theatre at a profit (which is scarcely credible) that would simply show that people have higher priorities for the use of limited resources.

Then there is the altruistic argument that public spending gives poor people access to things like medical services which they might not be able to afford if they were spending their money on other things. But this surely is an argument for redistributing money to poor people and letting them buy what they need, rather than arranging for the state, paternalistically and inefficiently, to provide them with benefits in kind.

In any case, plenty of research has shown that the middle classes get a better "deal" out of the NHS and many other components of the welfare state than do the poor. (Surely the average patron of a state-subsidised theatre would be better able to afford an unsubsidised ticket than the average taxpayer, who is forced to pay for the subsidy?)

Finally, it is nice to know that Professor Denbigh is "pleased" to pay for the current level of public expenditure but what response would he make to those of us who would rather have the money than the state welfare and pay our taxes with angry reluctance?

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY SAMPSON,
Richmond House,
Ingelton, Yorkshire,
via Carnforth, Lancashire.

Ghana's economic ills

From Mr Eugene Cotran

Sir, Lord Gifford (March 21) refers to Ghana's new "institutions" which are trying to deal with the corrupt practices of Ghana's wealthy citizens and companies. He gives the Citizens' Vetting Committee as an example of such "institutions" and Ghana's baristars as the "citizens" allegedly found by the committee not to have paid taxes for years.

What Lord Gifford does not say is that under the Citizens' Vetting Committee Law (PNDC Law no. 1 of 1982) the committee has power to keep a person in custody "to facilitate the investigation", may order the forfeiture of his property to the state, and it shall "not be lawful for any court to entertain any action or proceedings whatsoever for the purpose of questioning any decision, finding, order or proceedings of the committee."

Lord Gifford might have given another example, namely, the institution of "public tribunals", which have, in regard to the trial of criminal offences, virtually replaced the long-established regular courts of Ghana and its system of criminal justice, once the envy of the whole of Africa.

Ghana's baristars, the "tax evaders", according to the formidable Citizens' Vetting Committee, have boycotted these public tribunals from whose decisions (which includes the death sentence) no appeal or judicial review of any kind lies.

It is plain that the "corrupt and

greedy" practices of Ghana's citizens (which are surely not confined to the wealthy, as Lord Gifford suggests) and Ghana's economic ills are not going to be eliminated by the kind of institutions set up by the PNDC Government. Indeed, it is these very institutions, often composed of legally unqualified people, that have resulted in complete disrespect for and disintegration of the rule of law in Ghana and the anguish cry by Ghanaians for the restoration of "freedom and justice", a stand to which your editorial of March 7 rightly refers.

Yours faithfully,
EUGENE COTRAN,
2 Paper Buildings, Temple, EC4.

From Professor Maurice Bruce
Sir, There must be many for whom Professor Denbigh speaks in asking whether - or should it not be - why? - your "central philosophical conviction" takes no account of the needs which can be met only by public institutions, i.e. by "collectivist" action.

You have gone so far (leader, March 23) as to resurrect the Victorian, A. V. Dicey. True, he was unhappy about the trend towards collectivism in his time, but he did at least recognize "the interdependence of all human interests" and could find no such central philosophical conviction in his study of the development of government activity as plagues us today from both extremes of the political spectrum.

"Legislative opinion", he concluded, "is more often the result of facts than of philosophical speculations" and to a considerable extent this has remained the case, to the disappointment of political extremists.

You quote, with evident approval, Dicey's "State help kills self-help", but need we be influenced by a long-dead critic, however notable in his day, who had reservations even about legislation against the adulteration of food, who confused unemployment insurance with the *droit de travail* of 1848 in France, and who stigmatized old-age pensions as "nothing but a new form of out-relief for the poor" (my italics)?

In any case, where is the evidence for the killing, except in philosophical speculation, in Dicey's day and our own?

As Professor Ginsberg wrote, some years ago, anticipating Professor Denbigh, the issue is "practical, not theoretical. It is what can best be done by individuals... and what things of importance would remain undone if the state did not do them".

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE BRUCE,
22 Chorley Drive,
Sheffield,
March 29.

Defects in defence

From Lord Mayhew

Sir, Lord Carver is right (March 23). The single-Services Chiefs of Staff must be in a position to assess all the factors affecting the efficiency of their Service and to present their conclusions effectively to the CDS (Chief of the Defence Staff).

This has not been the case even before Mr Heseltine's reforms. In the sixties, when the Navy objected that it could not maintain our East of Suez role without aircraft carriers, it was steamrollered by less well informed opinion at the centre. Mr Heseltine's reforms will increase the possibility of similar blunders in future.

Yours etc,
CHRISTOPHER MAYHEW,
House of Lords,
March 23.

Medieval penalty

From Mr Endre Somjen

Sir, Your Religious Affairs Correspondent states in his article, "Revival of medieval penalty" (March 22), that the last excommunication in the Roman Catholic Church "appears to have involved a person in one of the southern states of the United States in the 1960s..."

Your excellent library, of which I am a great admirer and occasional user, will, no doubt, confirm that there have been at least 13 excommunications from the Catholic Church since the end of the sixties. The last reported one was in May, 1983, when the entire congregation of the S. Doñano parish in the diocese of Siena was excommunicated for heresy by the Vatican.

The last prelate to be excommunicated was Monsignor Pierre Martin Ngo Dinh Thuc, brother of the late South Vietnamese President, Ngo Dinh Diem. Thuc had the doubtful distinction of having been excommunicated twice: once in 1976 for unlawfully ordaining bishops, and, after being "temporarily rehabilitated" by Pope VI, he was again excommunicated in April, 1983, for yet another bout of "unlawful episcopal ordinations" in Spain.

The excommunication of two Italian writers in 1973 for using tape-recorded talks with Catholic priests in their book, *Sex in the Confessional*, was widely reported and commented on in the world press.

I hasten to say that I am far less knowledgeable on Church affairs than your Correspondent but have had his facts routinely checked against our own Library's modest records before filing the article for further reference.

Yours faithfully,
ENDRE SOMJEN,
Reprints Limited,
85 Fleet Street, EC4.

VAT on building

From Councillor C. M. McLaren

Sir, The logic of the second paragraph of Lord Rosebery's letter on VAT distortions in building (March 20) leads to the conclusion that anomalies and distortions between different classes of building works would only be removed if VAT were imposed on new building work as well as on improvements and on repairs. Indeed I would not have been surprised if the Chancellor, in his zeal to remove anomalies from the tax and duty structure, had not done this.

An alternative approach which would have removed these anomalies and would benefit all privately owned residential accommodation, would have been the removal of VAT on building repairs. Relief would have been brought in particular to the hard-pressed private landlord, who forms perhaps the only sector of residential housing which is not favoured either by tax relief or by public subsidy.

This relief to the private-sector landlord would help preserve the mobility in accommodation that is increasingly needed by the flexible patterns and locations of employment today. Thus it would benefit not only the housing stock of the country but also employment and the economy.

It could be financed by the removal of mortgage tax relief on the higher bands of income tax.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER MCLAREN,
Chairman, Health and Housing Committee,
The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea,
Town Hall, Kensington, W8.

Filling the room at the top

From the Archbishop of York

Sir, It may help to curb Clifford Longley's speculative zeal (feature, March 28) if I explain, without breaking any confidences, why the process of appointing diocesan bishops takes longer in some cases than in others.

The first step, involving the collection of information about the diocese in question and consultation with a wide variety of local people, may take two or three months. It obviously cannot start until the vacancy has been announced, and this is likely to occur early. When a retiring bishop has declared his intention to resign well in advance than if the vacancy occurs through death or translation.

The information thus collected goes to the Crown Appointments Commission, whose pattern of meetings may be fixed up to a year in advance. Only one diocese can be considered at each of its meetings, and the four diocesan representatives on each commission are drawn from the diocese under consideration. It may happen, therefore, that if two dioceses fall vacant at roughly the same time, one of them has to wait in the queue for the next meeting of the commission.

When the commission eventually sends two names to the Prime Minister, she may have her own timetable for dealing with the matter, and may wish to make her own soundings before deciding between the names.

There are thus plenty of opportunities for delay built into the system and speculative interpretations which ignore these belong to the realm of journalistic fiction. So also do Clifford Longley's remarks about Auckland Castle.

I do not know what prompted his flight of fancy about hard-to-fill houses of the Lord, but I am tempted to speculate that there was a hard-to-fill space on your features page.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN EBOR,
Bishopthorpe, York,
March 29.

Going solo

From Dr L. E. C. Ormerod

Sir, On a day when London was without public transport my bicycle-conducted survey showed 42 per cent of cars still to have only one occupant, a measure of how unpleasant we, as a nation, find enforced fraternization.

If an Englishman's house is his castle, what, then, is his car?

Yours faithfully,
IAN ORMEROD,
Institute of Neurology,
University Department of Clinical Neurology,
The National Hospital,
Queen Square, WCI,
March 28.

Spectacular value

From Mr Montagu Levy

Sir, Mr Berrow's assertion (March 22) that British opticians are exploiting the public does not follow from the simple fact that spectacles are cheaper in Portugal - so are sardines and hundreds of other commodities. So what?

My own calculations are that in an average practice the overhead cost on each pair of spectacles is about £3 per pair and the laboratory charge for the very simplest pair of spectacles is about £7. In spite of this and the professional service involved quite well designed spectacles are available in London at about £25 or less.

A national health spectacle, for which the public now pay almost the whole cost, except for the slight testing, costs about £10. Britain is now among the least expensive places in the world for spectacles, and contact lenses compared to countries with similar economies.

I'll bet my last escudo that Mr Berrow (if he is painfully employed) sells his labour at a cost far higher than do the Portuguese in the Algarve.

Yours faithfully,
MONTAGU LEVY,
17 Cumberland Mansions,
Brown Street, W1,
March 26.

Voice of experience

From Mr Henry G. Button

Sir, You reported on March 26 that Mr Bill Collins believed that his 74 years in the parish church choir at Bussage would make him the longest serving chorister on record in Britain.

According to an article on long-service records that you published back in 1955, on August 22 a gentleman named R. Jenner completed 80 years with the choir at Edenbridge, and Mr F. Starling completed more than 81 years with the choir at Blofield. So Mr Collins will have to soldier on for a few more years yet to take the record.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY G. BUTTON,
7 Amburst Court,
Grange Road, Cambridge,
March 27.

Equal before the law

From Mr A. E. Stevens

Sir, Recently an elderly lady was convicted of causing an obstruction on a road by driving her car at 15 mph, which was considered too slow. Her penalty was a fine and the loss of her licence.

Can we expect that the numerous picketing miners who are causing obstructions on the motorways by driving at 2 mph will receive the same penalty?

Yours sincerely,
A. E. STEVENS,
3 Forestdale,
Grayschott, Hindhead, Surrey,
March 29.



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Travel: As The Jewel in the Crown draws to a close, Michael Watkins and Shona Crawford Poole pay homage to India

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31 MARCH-6 APRIL 1984 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Lonely landmarks in a prairie war

Some of this country's finest hedgerows predate the sighting of Viking longships off Lindisfarne; others have disappeared in increasing numbers, victims of modern agriculture. Alan Hamilton looks at part of our national heritage under threat

Unkempt about those hedges blows an unofficial English rose. But it blows less every year; Rupert Brooke's England continues to vanish at a rate that is nothing short of alarming, as the inexorable westward march of the corn belt irons the traditional patchwork landscape into the featureless tablecloth of a Kansas prairie.

Mark well the hedge, for it is a most essential feature of the English rural scene. Its purpose is to define boundaries, protect stock, and shelter crops; its effect is to lend intimacy, mystery, colour and shade to the countryside. From the ancient oak-studded hawthorns of Kent, through the ruler-straight hawthorn and ash of the Midlands, to the beeches of Exmoor and the gorse-topped earth banks of Cornwall.

But mark it soon. At the end of the last war there were an estimated 620,000 miles of hedgerow, a calculation arrived at with the help of aerial pictures taken by the Luftwaffe with an eye to invasion. By 1974, when the Ministry of Agriculture had stopped giving grants to farmers to grub up hedges, an estimated 140,000 miles had disappeared. Only 20,000 had been lost to urban sprawl and wider roads; the rest went under the plough.

Since then statistics have been as thin on the ground as oaks in the Fens, but the little available data suggests that the rate of demolition has hardly slowed at all. Witness two recent surveys conducted by local branches of the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

At Thorpe Morieux in Suffolk they showed that the parish had 56.5 miles of hedge in 1950, 31 miles in 1977, and 26.8 miles by the end of 1982. Not much slowing down there. The parish of Brightwaltham in west Berkshire had 80 miles of hedge in 1947, 50 miles in 1976, and 45 in 1981. Suffolk is becoming the county of the 200-acre field but in Berkshire, not usually regarded as prairie country, the losses are more surprising.

It is a tenacious myth that the "traditional" English landscape of today is essentially Georgian. Certainly two centuries of enclosure produced a frenzy of hedge-planting, but as many as half our hedges predate the agrarian revolution, particularly in Kent and Sussex, and in west and south-west England. Many are Saxon, ancient parish boundaries that wend erratically across the modern landscape. Such venerable growths are part of our national heritage, and ought to enjoy the same statutory protection as do much more recent works of man the builder.

Ten years ago Dr Max Hooper of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology at Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire developed a method of dating hedges, and he still stands by it, with the proviso that it is only the roughest of guides. Marrying botanical observation with ancient parish records, he concluded that a hedge was 100 years old for every major species in a 30-yard stretch, give or take a couple of centuries. Thus a hedge with 12 species - and there are some - was planted before the Norsemen's

longships were sighted off Lindisfarne. Although it is a useful rule of thumb, this method of calculation can be misleading - for example, in cases where early agricultural improvers planted mixed hedges in the first place.

Beware over-enthusiastic counting of every intrusive elder and dog rose; count only the principal trees and shrubs which form the hedge. Hawthorn is by far the most common English hedgerow shrub; vigorous, thick, and a pricklier deterrent to man and beast than any barbed wire.

Although the flowers of the hawthorn, the commonest of British hedgerow plants, are traditionally associated with May Day, even at this early stage in the year some hedges will be showing signs of life. The Glastonbury thorn, sprung by legend from the staff struck in the ground by Joseph of Arimathea, can flower as early as Christmas.

Before long the cascades of elder will awake to blossom, both flowers and subsequent berries making an abundant offering to the hedgerow wine-maker, soon to be followed by entanglements of bramble and wild rose. Even in deepest winter the hedgerow is not in total hibernation, its red-berry chains of the black bryony, child of the mandrake root, offering late winter feeding for birds.

In later season look among the stinging nettles and cow parsley for cuckoo piz, its elegant petals forming a slender hock glass. And if you come across bluebells, they are an indication that the hedge is probably not a planted one. But a remnant strip of the native woodland. Look too for young elm, for it is in the undisturbed hedgerows that a new generation is reestablishing itself.

As there is nothing new under the sun, so is there nothing new about the enthusiasm of farmers for ripping out hedges. As early as 1800 landowners who doubtless regarded themselves as being in the vanguard of progress were writing to the farming journals and to the Royal Agricultural Society on the wisdom of removing hedges which did little but occupy valuable land. Remove the hedge from the four sides of a 10-acre field, and you will have gained an extra acre of cultivable land.

Today's vogue for hedge-grubbing is a direct result of the agricultural intensification which has been in full flood since 1945 and is now at fever pitch with the European Community's blatant bias towards cereal farming.

Town-dwellers too readily forget that the countryside is a workshop for those who live in it, before it is their playground. Why should a farmer be expected to combine-harvest a field designed in the days when the ideal draught for a pair of Shires was regarded as 264 yards?

But too much grubbing seems unnecessary to the point of vandalism. Does a farmer really have to tear up a hedge, not between fields, but between his field and the road, to gain an extra two-yard strip of land which may not even be his



Close encounter with an Anglo-Saxon hedge: Nigel Ajax-Lewis, conservation officer for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Naturalist Trust, at Stanton St John, Oxfordshire

anyway? It happens, and farmers have begun to know it better. A well-tended hedge is more effective, more attractive, and in the long run probably cheaper, than any post and wire.

The key word is "well-tended". It takes care and skill to manage a hedge, and requires some knowledge of ancient country crafts which, fortunately, are not quite lost. The Agricultural Training Board can still find old countrymen to lecture to its occasional courses on the art of hedge-laying. Leave a hedge alone, and it will grow high, wild and gappy at the bottom, with holes big enough to admit the heaviest bull. Laying is the technique of chopping the young branches about two-thirds of the way through, and bending them parallel with the ground into a

boundary marker, has always been a stockproof barrier. A well-tended hedge is more effective, more attractive, and in the long run probably cheaper, than any post and wire.

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close knit, the whole supported on poles of ash and finished along the top with a weave of hazel. Almost every county of England once had its own peculiar shape of billhook for the purpose, and some are still readily available.

The beauty of hedge-laying is that it is a job for the winter months, when farm work is slack, and when there is a limit to the number of floors to be swept and gates to be painted just for the sake of keeping the men employed. A skilled hedger can tackle 20 yards in a day, and his artistry will last a good 15 years before the job needs to be done again. Galvanized wire-and-softwood posts do well to last beyond 10 years.

Once laid, a hedge needs regular trimming to keep a good

shape. City people become very upset when they see a hedge torn back to its bare skeleton by a flail cutter. It is not the fault of the flails; either the hedge has been the victim of a once-in-a-lifetime attack, or the tractor driver has traversed it too quickly. Even then, any permanent damage is unlikely.

The man from Hampstead can wax equally irate when he sees a hedge cut back almost to its roots, but even severe coppicing of that kind is a perfectly respectable form of hedge management, a means of encouraging new growth close to the ground.

Wildlife will of course suffer temporarily, but not as much as some might imagine. The removal of hedges reduces the habitat of the hedgerow species, the chaffinches, the blackbirds

and hedge-sparrows, especially as England's stock of old broadleaf woodland is also being reduced at frightening speed. But even the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds agrees that, unless hedges are more or less completely obliterated in any particular area, the birds will simply move into what remains and live in rather more crowded housing conditions than before.

But the point is that it is undesirable for wildlife to be squeezed into a few well-defined protected habitats, like once-proud American Indians forced on to reservations. Abundant hedgerows ensure birdsong at every roadside, down every lane.

A few brave souls are trying to swim against the tide of grubbing. Voluntary bodies like

the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, and the conservation departments of some county councils, now do their best to dissuade farmers from grubbing unless it is patently necessary, but they fight with virtually no legal teeth.

There are hints that the Government may be turning a more sympathetic ear to the notion of hedgerow conservation, but it is not made any easier by the entirely different priorities of the Department of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Both might take a moment's heed of the poet George Herbert, who in 1640 counselled: "Love your neighbour, yet pull not down your hedge". But then the old boy was a cleric; what would he know of farming?

Grubbing that goes against the grain

Take the A505, the old Icknield Way, from Baldock, in Hertfordshire, towards Royston. At the top of the hill, pause and look to your right. Contain your glance to the right for the next several miles, and you will see as dreary and damning an example as can be found anywhere of how intensive agriculture has changed the face of the English countryside.

"You've just crossed the biggest field in Europe", a friend told us as we arrived for lunch one winter Sunday. It was doubtless an exaggeration, but under a carpet of snow the view was vividly reminiscent of Canada. Unlike Canada, however, where great open spaces under huge skies can be exhilarating, in Hertfordshire they are alien and dispiriting.

Apart from the wholesale destruction of woodlands, the removal of hedges is the most visible sign of agrarian vandalism in the cause of profit. East Anglia is generally cited as the worst afflicted region. In fact, much of Norfolk and Suffolk has been spared, and retains its rural intimacy and seclusion. The main "prairie" belt runs north from Hertfordshire through Cambridgeshire and the Fens into Lincolnshire.

Farmers are inclined to argue, with some historical justification, that this part of the country never had many hedges anyway. But the same is certainly not true of, say, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hampshire, where in places the character of the landscape has been totally changed.

The wholesale removal of hedges began in earnest after the last war when they came to be seen as less of a convenience and more of a nuisance. The fields they enclosed were simply too small for the efficient use of modern machinery and the Ministry of Agriculture instituted grants for hedge removal

under its farm improvement scheme. The scheme came to an end in 1973, the year Britain joined the EEC, and the last payments were made in 1976. The commonly held belief that farmers are still paid to grub up hedges, and that some or all of the money comes from Brussels, is thus a misconception.

However, membership of the EEC has encouraged prairie farming, as disproportionately high grain prices have persuaded people to switch from livestock to arable farming.

In an ideal Arcadian countryside, the conservationist lobby would have hedges protected by some form of planning consent, and they are disappointed that the government whips blocked the attempts of Labour MP Peter Hardy in 1982 to introduce a hedgerow conservation Bill. He pointed out that many of the parliamentary enclosure acts stipulated that hedges then planted should be maintained "in perpetuity".

Meanwhile, the Council for the Protection of Rural England has campaigned for changes in the EEC agricultural directives to allow grants to be made for wildlife and landscape conservation and not just for "improvement". It has described the Government's attitude as obtuse and negative, and has accused the Department of the Environment of allowing the Ministry of Agriculture to call the tune.

There have recently been signs that the two departments are prepared to, or have been ordered to, work more closely together to promote conservation. So far so good, but the main effects are likely to be on moorland, marshes and woods, which can be easily identified as environmentally important. A hedge is only a hedge.

John Young



Country matters: Jonathan Dickinson keeps the ancient art of hedge-laying alive in Great Offley, Hertfordshire

HEDGEWATCH: A competition for young conservationists

From left: Ash, blackbird, cuckoo pint, wild rose, fieldmouse



Is there an old and interesting hedgerow near you? We invite our younger readers to spend part of their Easter holidays exploring the countryside. Can you find a stretch of hedge with a variety of trees and shrubs, that looks as if it has been there for a very long time? What species can you find growing in it? How old do you think it is, and why was it planted? Can you spot any birds or animals in it? Is it useful?

Ideally, you should take a 30-yard stretch. Make a drawing of the hedge, the plants and any wildlife you can find in it. Then, in not more than 250 words, describe the hedge and its history. To help you, we asked an artist, Robin Jacques, whose drawing appears on the left, to depict some of the most common elements found in a hedge.

But remember, do not trespass on farmers' land, and do not damage wild plants or crops. There are two categories: for children aged 7 to 11, and for those aged 12 to 16. Prizes of £50 will be awarded to the winner and £25 to the runner-up in each category. Do not forget to include your full name, address and age. Closing date is Friday, May 4. Send your entries to: Hedgerows, The Times, 12 Coley Street, London WC2E 9YT. Employees of Times Newspapers Ltd and their families are ineligible. The Times reserves the right to publish winning entries. Entries cannot be returned. The Editor's decision is final.

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TRAVEL/2

... and Shona Crawford Poole treads a popular path in the north

Splash of colour at the shallow end



Everyone advises beginning in Delhi. Newcomers find it less alarming than Bombay and Calcutta, they say, and it is the best place to start a tour of the showplaces of Rajasthan. A night or two at the Lake Palace at Udaipur is more or less mandatory, and at Jaipur the Palace of Winds and the Amber Palace are on every itinerary. And so, of course, is the Taj Mahal at Agra.

This is the milk-run, the most popular circuit of tourist India. It covers only a small area of the northern plain and can be packaged into a week. It is the shallow end of the Indian experience and I was quite prepared to begin mine with it.

Until the recent rush of films and television plays set and photographed in India, my journeys there had been imaginary ones through the minds of Kipling, Scott and Rudyard Kipling. So, although all the palaces turned out to be very fine - just as pretty and plush as the glimpses offered in *Oceano* - it was one of the most interesting weeks I have spent anywhere.

The street life of the present is even more captivating than the art of the past.

All the bicycles in Delhi are gents. They are dark, thick-limbed, long wheel-based; and on them, men so thin that they look like boys spin about their business. On foot, or on wheels, the wish is like the road to Wembley on Cup Final day. The ancient Morris, Triumphs and Fiats which make up the bulk of the motor

population seem at first to be astonishingly preserved. But they are not. India bought old manufacturing plant from Copley, Coventry and Turin, and some of these period pieces are still in production.

Right of way is accorded to greater bulk. Bicycle gives way to car gives way to bus. On thin country roads drivers stick sickeningly late to the central strip of tarmac before lurching out of the path of the oncoming vehicle. Through villages they play chicken with the poultry and the children. Sacred cows, gaunt and calm, play stately havoc with the traffic at city junctions.

Street carries eaten from the leaf

In Chaudhary Chowk, the artery of old Delhi that gives its name to the bazaar district, bullock carts and donkeys dice with trucks and motorized trishaws in an arresting din of bells and horns, in rough white cotton. In one lane the trade is in sparkling metallic ribbons and sequins; in another it is in bright plastic buckets and gaudy tin basins. Nearby, every shop in sight is selling fabric. And from dark gaps between these tidy retailers come wild spicy smells of cooking. Big leaves serve as plates for street curries eaten with the fingers or with wooden ice-cream spoons.

Bel-bottomed trousers, Minnie Mouse shoes and light shirts dress the city slickers of the bazaar. St. Laurent, Hermes, Lanvin and others in whose fashionable names all the perfumes of Paris are franchised, supply the insignia of those who see and are seen in the lobbies of the grand hotels.

It would need local knowledge to be sure that the waves of glittering women in gilded saris who melted down the marble staircase of Delhi's Taj Mahal Hotel to a wedding party in the gardens were dressed in new money. They were breathtakingly lovely anyway, though no more so than the slender, straight-backed village girls with silver anklets and full skirts with heavy hems in pinks and oranges of truly shocking violence.

Perhaps Delhi had been buffeted a bit for the Commonwealth prime ministers' conference. Certainly when I was there in November Delhi was cool and groomed. There were beggars and touts and cripples about in the old city, but none of the hawking confrontations with death and disease I had half expected to face.

Despite the dust and the dirt, there are surprisingly few unpleasant smells and a great many good ones. The dung flies I had read about so often as the smell of India small and marvelous, like the garden bonfires, and their smoke winds low among the houses and trees at dawn and dusk. And spices which perfume the air at every turn have clearer, stronger, more varied tastes and smells than any which find their way to Britain. The effect is of a full symphony - orchestra after chamber music.

The scent of almond oil now has an Indian dimension, too, an association with the country's rather rough system of massage. Its rhythms are quite

different from those of western massage and it is difficult not to giggle when your toes are pulled.

What is there to say about the "sights" that is not adequately explained and described in the guidebooks. Except perhaps that every one of them has some extra and delightful dimension. In the gardens of the Red Fort in the heart of old Delhi it is the great green parrots with scarlet beaks and "very small grey squirrels with white chipmunk stripes. At the winter palace at Udaipur it was the elephant beds - great stone wedges against which the elephants could slumber without fear of being unable to rise.

At the Lake Palace Hotel, which is the sister summer palace in sight of the water one (the maharaja has yet another for the rainy season on a nearby hill) it was the great swing in my astonishingly elaborate room. A bunch of averagely jaded scribes is not often stirred into rushing about like a gang of excited children showing each other their rooms. The *Mail* on Sunday's chandelier would not have disgraced the Albert Hall and *The Guardian* had the better part of a mirrored wing all to himself. It did seem a pity to sleep alone amid such splendour.

The Taj Mahal and the taste of bears

Then there were the dancing bears, seen first in medieval looking outline far ahead on the road from Agra airport to the Taj Mahal. We slowed and stopped and more bears appeared from the bushes, black, dusty and mean-eyed. Each bear was attached to a ragged man or boy by a loop of rope and a stick. The places where they had been threaded through their foreheads had long ago healed, but their ghastly snouts were eroded and broken by the jerking, money-making ropes.

Not even the Taj Mahal could quite take away the taste of the bears. It might have done in moonlight, or if there had not been such crowds, so many jangling transistors, or so many volunteers to mind the shoes which must be shed on its steps. In the warm afternoon light its marble looked greasy with hand and footprints and inside a guide was holding a torch against the inlay of semi-precious stones to make its colours glow more brightly. Guides can, destroy the magic of anywhere when they really try.

seven nights in Kashmir cost from £233 to £289, and Goa £232. Staying on an extra week in Delhi costs £121. These holidays feature in the Wings Faraway Holidays range. Service in the Taj group's hotels where I stayed, internally, Indian Airways is cheap; but be prepared to pay cash, since credit cards are subject to substantial surcharge. Hotel guide lines: Taj Mahal, Bombay; £56 double; The Savoy, Co. £16 double. There are innumerable hotels and rest houses charging £1 to £4 double, but do not expect luxury. Even in five-star hotels you can dine for £8-£10; elsewhere half that price. Avoid spirits at £4 a nip. Check with your doctor for health requirements. Avoid April-May

heat, June-July and November monsoons, December-March is best. Further information from India Government Tourist Office, 21 New Bond Street, London W1Y 0DY. Tel: 01-493 0769.

Shona Crawford Poole was a guest of Wings. The company's six-nights Raj tour takes in Delhi, Agra, Fatehpur, Sikri and Jaipur. Accommodation in comfortable budget hotels, flights with Thai International and half-board are included in the package price which starts at £532. Add-on packages of

India notes

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Costly Malta rejects idea of 'tourist pound'

Leading tour operators are urging the Maltese government to introduce a "tourist pound" in an effort to reverse a decline in the number of visitors from the United Kingdom, traditionally the island's most important market.

The Tour Operators Study Group, which represents 17 leading holiday companies, says bookings to Malta are currently running 25 per cent below last year's level, while the number of British visitors to the island in the last winter season was down by one-third.

The tour companies believe the underlying problem is the "artificially high" value of the Maltese pound against sterling, which means that a holiday in a first-class hotel can cost between £50 and £100 more than a similar holiday in Majorca.

But Mr Joe Grima, Malta's Tourism Minister, says that a special tourist exchange rate is "just not possible" because it would be too difficult to administer and would be unfair to Malta's other industries.

Not all tour operators are

sharing in the decline in demand for Malta. Thomson Holidays, for example, says its summer bookings to the island are running 60 per cent ahead of last year.

Cook's recipe

The Thomas Cook chain of travel agencies has given its customers a pledge that it will match a holiday resort to their requirements or give them their money back. Clients will be asked to fill in a form stating their recipe for an ideal holiday and Thomas Cook will then recommend a resort matching

that specification. If holiday-makers say after their return that the resort did not measure up to their requirements Thomas Cook will investigate their claim and, if it is found to be valid, the holiday price will be refunded.

Arabian flights

British Caledonian has postponed indefinitely the start of its new route from Gatwick to Riyadh, originally scheduled for April 1, because it has not yet

been able to secure traffic rights from Saudi Arabia.

Winning the battle

Demand for Global Overland's "Longest Day" tours, commemorating the fortieth anniversary of D-day, has been so heavy that the company is doubling capacity and adding extra departures. The six-day tours, costing from £130, start on May 14 and run throughout the summer until September 17. The tours include guided visits to the Normandy battlefields.

Philip Ray

TRAVEL NEWS

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Philip Ray

Costly Malta rejects idea of 'tourist pound'

Leading tour operators are urging the Maltese government to introduce a "tourist pound" in an effort to reverse a decline in the number of visitors from the United Kingdom, traditionally the island's most important market.

The Tour Operators Study Group, which represents 17 leading holiday companies, says bookings to Malta are currently running 25 per cent below last year's level, while the number of British visitors to the island in the last winter season was down by one-third.

The tour companies believe the underlying problem is the "artificially high" value of the Maltese pound against sterling, which means that a holiday in a first-class hotel can cost between £50 and £100 more than a similar holiday in Majorca.

But Mr Joe Grima, Malta's Tourism Minister, says that a special tourist exchange rate is "just not possible" because it would be too difficult to administer and would be unfair to Malta's other industries.

Not all tour operators are

sharing in the decline in demand for Malta. Thomson Holidays, for example, says its summer bookings to the island are running 60 per cent ahead of last year.

Cook's recipe

The Thomas Cook chain of travel agencies has given its customers a pledge that it will match a holiday resort to their requirements or give them their money back. Clients will be asked to fill in a form stating their recipe for an ideal holiday and Thomas Cook will then recommend a resort matching

that specification. If holiday-makers say after their return that the resort did not measure up to their requirements Thomas Cook will investigate their claim and, if it is found to be valid, the holiday price will be refunded.

Arabian flights

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TRAVEL NEWS

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Gadgets for gourmets are no flash in the pan

We are becoming a nation of gadget-loving gourmets. After generations of good plain cooking, we are demanding the most unexpected kitchen equipment, from chocolate-dipping forks to lemon zesters, from duck presses to couscoussiers. Hence the rise of the cookshop.

Twenty years ago, if you wanted specialist cookware you had only two alternatives - Elizabeth David or France. North of Chelsea you used what mother used or did without. Then came David Mellor and Diversitment, but it was years before the department stores overcame the buyer barrier and picked up the trend. What had been hardware, glass, china, electrical and linen departments came together to form kitchen shops within shops in main city centres.

Now Boots have adopted the idea and are bringing cookshops to smaller towns. They already have put 102 in their larger branches or in the former Timothy White's stores which they acquired 15 years ago. By this time next year they will have 160, a development costing £5m.

The Timothy White connection is important, as it has clearly had an influence on the merchandise offered. As long ago as 1975 Boots started to experiment with different schemes in different branches before deciding on the right mix of merchandise. They had the "customer flow" - their research shows that seven in 10 women go to Boots at least once a week - while Timothy White had the kitchen-product expertise.

The result is a much greater emphasis on electrical kitchen equipment than you will find in specialist cookshops. 20 per cent of their stock consists of coffee makers, slow cookers, kettles, food mixers and processors and microwave ovens, and 15 per cent is in the so-called type of drink-making equipment.

Boots have developed their own brand of kitchen tools and gadgets, called Professional Range, which are all very reasonably priced. They have also achieved a degree of co-ordination by keeping pans and tinware to bold primary colours with matching linens. This season there is also a pretty range in pastels to keep in step with the current fashion.

The main problem any company has to face when designing and stocking a new shop is how to create the right atmosphere for its section of the market. White Boots are sticking to their good-value, middle-of-the-road image. Peter Knight, who has recently taken his first two steps towards a cookshop empire, is adding a

touch of distinction to the kitchen scene.

Peter Knight's unerring eye for design is known from his home-furnishing shops in Esher and Beaconsfield. Two years ago he opened his first cookshop at 10, South Street, Dorking, and last year he expanded to 156 Walton Road, East Molesey.

The two cookshops are fitted with the sort of beautifully finished pine display units that would make attractive shelving in a domestic kitchen, and although they look expensive, there is no sense of claustrophobia as there is in many small, exclusive shops. The service is attentive without being pushy, and there is a remarkable selection of small, inexpensive items as well as the casseroles and terrines you would expect. The balance here is about 30 per cent pure cookware, to 70 per cent semi-functional and giftware.

The serious gourmet inclines some interesting ad-glass pans and casseroles by Corado which can be taken straight from the freezer and placed on an electric hotplate (or on a gas ring, if you use a diffuser).

They have plain white bases and clear tops and lids, and they

'The kitchen is no longer the place where we economize'

are surprisingly light and comfortable to use; although not non-stick, they are easy to clean. There are saucepans, casseroles and frying pans in plain white or with a floral design from £11.95 to £21.95.

The glassware is particularly good. A range of bowls by Arcoroc comes in five sizes, from 4 1/2 in to 12 in diameter. Although they cost from as little as 80p to £4.95, they have none of the awful moulded look of cheap glass. There are some neat Danish stacking wine glasses, which are good for picnics, and if you want the home-grown product, you can choose Darrington or Macdonalds.

The gadgetry is fascinating. If you cannot live without a buttering board which holds your crispbread and prevents it from breaking while you slap on the polysaturated, it will cost you 47p; a nicely streamlined knife sharpener has rubber feet to keep it firm while you hone your carver (£4.95); and a rubber pad called a Screwie helps you open tight screw lids (75p).

How are the old-established specialists reacting to the newcomers? Covent Garden Kitchen Supplies, who took

over Elizabeth David, and have her original shop in Bourne Street, London SW3, and a branch under their own name at 3 North Row, The Market, Covent Garden, London WC2, find that their basics have changed very little over the years. However, they have recently specialized in English tinware for cake-making, in the shape of numerals, letters, hearts and hexagons and in all sizes from 5 in to 14 in, and in chocolate-making equipment.

Diversitment, at 68 Marylebone Road, London W1, and 139 Fulham Road, London SW3, are also finding a great demand for cake-making equipment and for specialized equipment for barbecues. They pride themselves particularly on the expert advice and demonstrations they can give to customers looking for mixers and processors. They are also running four-week cookery courses at Fulham Road: £68 for eight two-hour lessons (twice weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays), or £8.50 for a single lesson. A new series starts in May (telephone 01-581 8065 for a brochure).

Diversitment simply do not consider themselves in the same market as the high-street cookshops. David Mellor, on the other hand, is giving the new trend serious consideration. He feels the best way of countering the influx of cookshops is to become "even more specialized and more original".

The pride of his collection is his range of pans in very high-quality aluminium and stainless steel. He is still looking for matching quality in enamel, but so far can only find it in Germany, where the pans are the wrong shape for the British market - apparently, we like long handles because we do a lot of boiling.

The one thing we don't seem to boil over about is price. The kitchen is no longer the place where we make economies, and the only people who did not make a success of kitchen shops were a franchise chain who set their prices too low.

"It makes sense to spend more on your cookware than on your curtains," says Peter Knight. "When you are entertaining your guests, they focus on the table, and that's where you make your impression."

"And whether you like it or not, it's the man who motivates the woman to buy. She won't spend a lot on a big purchase without consulting her husband and he's the one who says: 'Go on, let's have it.' As often as not he's the one who actually uses it, too."

What was that about a woman's place?

Beryl Downing



Left to right from top: Couscoussier £17.16 Diversitment; fish moulds £6.95 each, salad bowl £4.95 Peter Knight Cookshops; biscuit tin £3.95, place mat £1.25, oven mitt £2.95, cup from 30 piece set £29.95 Boots Cookshops; egg mould £4.50, chicken mould £2.38 Diversitment; four wine glasses £4.95, glass frypan £16.95, asparagus holder £2.20 Peter Knight; stainless steel pan £20.53 David Mellor; knife sharpener £4.95 Peter Knight; oven thermometer £4.95, mallet £1.45, poultry shears £3.95 Boots; alphabet cutters £10.71 Covent Garden Kitchen Supplies; garlic press £2.50 Peter Knight; chocolate dipping fork £4.59, dipping circle £2.80, rabbit cake tin £4.52, numeral £4.92 Diversitment

What's cooking in the food capital of the world



Paris is the food capital of the world and Les Halles was once its centre.

wholesale vegetable market has gone but the area still has many of the features that have made it a magnet for dedicated cooks.

It contains several of the most famous Parisian kitchen shops which stock an enormous range of cooking equipment and tableware.

Three of the best are within a short walk of each other. Go first to A. Simon, a glossy emporium established in 1884 at 36 Rue Etienne Marcel. Sturdy custom-made restaurant and brasserie crockery are on display, together with those solid glasses used in bars throughout France.

Heavy, plain stainless steel cutlery, slightly larger than the British equivalent, comes in several patterns and is solid and

comfortable to hold. Prices start at about £1.25 for knives, 75p for forks and spoons. Those with coloured handles come in a wider range of colours than is available in England and are about £1 each.

A. Simon also stocks those pressed stainless steel oval dishes which are used in every French cafe router for frites and hors d'oeuvres: they are so pretty that it is no wonder that they are left on the table for you to help yourself. The 10 in size costs £3.50.

Just around the corner, at 18 Rue Coquilliere, is E. Dehillerion, a shop for very serious cooks. Inside it looks like a warehouse, with cheerful, blue-overalled men to help you find your way around the maze of whisks, wooden spoons, rolling pins and wire-baskets, hung like dried flowers from the ceiling.

The firm's own brand of carbon steel knives are a

bargain. A vegetable knife, for example, comes at £1.80. This is also the place to find every kind of copper pan, at reasonable prices. A tiny saucepan in the heaviest gauge is £9.50.

Dehillerion also has a highly covetable range of small portable items, from fancy steel skewers to plain wooden spatulas.

An Bain Marie, at 20 Rue Hérold, is a chic antique shop for gourmets where everything has been selected with great care.

There are sets of beautiful old knives, toast racks, silver sugar tongs, decanters, glasses, napkin rings and eight kinds of oyster plate; elegant large silver entrée dishes, egg cups, coffee pots, 1930s cocktail glasses and witty cocktail sticks; baskets of inexpensive bakelite salad servers and ice cream spoons. Upstairs is a collection of exquisite old and new linens.

It is a perfect place to find a special present or just indulge yourself. Bain Marie has another branch 100 yards away at 2 Rue de Mail which sells rare and modern cookery books.

The Genievre Lethu chain specializes in stylish modern houseware - clear and brightly coloured perspex salad bowls at £7, wood-and-wire cheese safes at £12. Tiny gold-plated sauce whisks priced at less than £1 make amusing token presents.

The chain's shops are at the Forum les Halles, level 2, 6 Rue Pirovetto and 1 Avenue Niel.

For shoppers with cars, china and porcelain are a very good buy. At Galleries Lafayette the cheapest 10 in dinner plate was about 65p, and there was a wide choice at about £1. Lovers of plain white Limoges porcelain should visit l'Arc en Ciel, at 8 Rue Bayen for seconds.

Jean Stern

SHOPFRONT



Lest we forget...

It always infuriates me that the price of flowers rockets whenever there is a traditional festival. The traders call it supply and demand, I call it greed. So an attractive, last-minute alternative for Mother's Day, tomorrow, is the set of small pots illustrated above. They are decorated with red Busy Lizzies, £9.99 and there is a matching mini-watering can £7.99 from Marks & Spencer.

But if only flowers will do, the most delightful buy of the week is a miniature Japanese azalea. 10 in high and covered with a profusion of tiny pink blossoms. I keep mine in the office and it works like a puppy - everybody comes and talks to me about it. You can have one, too, from Woolworths. The nicest are in plain plastic pots at 99p, or there are more elaborately packaged ones up to £2.99.



Bags of talent

I am indebted to a Shopfront reader for the discovery of Tula bags, stocked by a young company with rather unconventional beginnings.

Two of the directors were trekking round South America with backpacks when they came across tulas - box-shaped bags made in Colombia - imported "a few hundred" and when they sold well found themselves in business. They started with luggage and now have a good range of handbags and small leather goods as well.

I liked the neat shoulder bag (illustrated), a smaller style which looks attractive with summer clothes. It is in soft cream cowhide with a black lining and detachable shoulder strap (£26.95) and has a matching purse wallet which at 4 in x 4 in is an ideal size to fit into an evening bag too. In several other colours, £13.95. Available from Alders of Croydon and the bag only at Fawcetts of Bond Street.

Jean Stern

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An Australian puts down roots

While visiting a house in Kensington Square about 10 days ago I was most impressed by a specimen of *Acacia dealbata*, better known as mimosa, in full flower. The scent as well as the magnificence of the flowers was a joy. It was a small tree planted on the south side of the building, so well protected, but if it flourishes under these conditions it is a tree for London and the South-east as well as the South-west.

Used extensively in cut-flower displays including wed-

ding bouquets, this plant is also known as the wattle. It is a native of Australia - an indication of its hardiness.

The true acacia should not be confused with the false acacia, also known as *Robinia Pseudacacia* which is a completely different tree. Both belong to the same family, Leguminosae, but there the resemblance ends. The robinia is a coarse, spined tree; the flowers are different and none are yellow, which identifies the mimosa. The true wattle has fine, pinnate foliage while the robinia's is much larger and coarser.

In its natural habitat *A. dealbata*, the silver wattle, grows to 100ft, but it is unlikely to reach anything like that size in this country. Under good conditions a tree may reach 50ft, but normally can be expected to reach up to 20ft. An acacia does not spread much so it will fit nicely into small areas in the garden, but it does not like to be under the canopy of larger trees. An open site, well protected from the north and east, is essential.

Soil conditions are not critical: where growth is fast the soil should not be too good. The acacia likes neither lime nor a high soil pH and prefers a well drained or quick-draining soil.

The first two or three years when the plant is establishing

itself are of vital importance. Dig two spits deep and add organic matter to the bottom spit, as no matter how well trees tolerate dry conditions the roots must be able to get down into the sub-soil.

Hard winters will often kill even a well-established acacia, although it has to be a hard year before all growth is killed down to and including the root system. It is wise to protect the base of the tree with a heavy mulch or by wrapping the bole with straw or hessian.

The species to try is most certainly *Acacia dealbata*. It produces clusters of yellow, ball-like flowers which are beautifully set off by the silvery, finely-cut foliage. *A. longifolia* or the Sydney Golden Wattle is not as hardy as *A. dealbata* but it is more tolerant of chalky soil and would be well worth trying on the alkaline soils of the south-east coastal areas. The last suggestion, only where good protection is available, is *A. Baileyana*, the Coolamunda Wattle. Bigger than *A. longifolia* but not as big as *A. dealbata*, it may even have a better foliage colour than the latter.

Hilliers of Winchester list these three varieties and have plants of differing sizes priced at about £10 each.

Ashley Stephenson

IN THE GARDEN



Acacia dealbata: In flower at Kew Gardens

Right on cue

If you get the sowing dates right, your own fruit and vegetables will be ready when the same produce is expensive in the shops. Cucumbers are a good example. They can be sown in January but this will cost you a lot in heating; it is better to sow them now when the days are growing longer. Sow them direct into 3 in pots, filled with a

soilless compost. Make sure the compost is moist enough to avoid having to water until the seeds have made roots.

Place the pots under a propagator, which should be in good light but not exposed to the sun during the middle of the day.

Once the plants have formed their seed leaves and the first true leaf is showing, plants can be potted into 4 in pots.

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50 من الأصل

Paul Griffiths



Dark terror and glimmering light from two pianos

Yet another link with the great performer-composers of the nineteenth century appears in veteran violinist Oscar Shumsky's latest recording: the first of a set of four discs of the miniatures, originals and transcriptions, of one of his heroes, Fritz Kreisler. Shumsky's own anecdotal sleeve notes speak of the problem of imitation and identity: but he knows all he

Perleman proves, gloriously, where they can go in the hands of professionals, I would not be without either.

Hilary Finch

A lyrical journey back to the roots

A Mozart piano concerto in disguised form also crops up on an extraordinary recording of Busoni's music for two pianos: his *Duett-Concertino* is a su-

Rosen's performance — magnificently assured, full of sweep and fervour: it is now joined on the Nonesuch label by a second recording (with the same coupling, Carter's 1946 *Piano Sonata*) by the American pianist, Paul Jacobs, ever spikier and more clear in certain places. This was Jacobs's last record — he died in New York last year of AIDS — and it is a tribute to one of the finest advocates of twentieth-century piano music.

Nicholas Kenyon

EATING OUT

Seductive eccentricity takes over from the jumbo sausage

Stan Hey
The George Hotel, 4, South Street,
Bridport, Dorset (0308 23187).
Open: pub hours and from 10am
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lunch available Mon-Sat and dinner
daily except Thurs and Sun.
Ticked Arms, North Road,
Whitfordale, Cambridgeshire (0223
833128). Open: Mon-Sat 10.30am-
2.30pm and 7pm (6.15pm Sat)-
11pm; Sun noon-2pm
and 7-10.30pm.
The Windsor Castle, 3 Lark
Place, London W9. Open: pub
hours; lunches available Mon-Fri.

DRINK

Classy Chiantis show up the faults of the nasties

Every High Street outlet or corner wine shop always seems to carry big, litre bottles of Chianti and most of the time the contents are very disappointing, so to find a good one is something of an achievement. The Marchese de Frescobaldi has obviously hit on the perfect popular, litre-bottle formula with his '81 Frescobaldi Chianti (£4.39, available in 1.5 litre bottles only). It has an attractive ruby-garnet colour, lively, lemony acidity, rich fruity

Chianti's problems are primarily overproduction, inflation and increasingly expensive labour - a lethal combination. With a cellar full of wine that is apparently impossible to sell and a bumper crop in the offing, most of Chianti's winemakers are not unnaturally reluctant to spend money on new equipment or to bring their

It is not all bad news in Chiari. Changes in both viticulture and viniculture are taking place on estates run by the most enlightened owners. The percentage of white grapes (Chiari traditionally has been a blend of both red and white grapes) and replacing these with classic red, French varieties such as Cabernet Sauvignon which give more body, bouquet and aging ability. They are also fermenting them at cooler temperatures in stainless steel and allowing their wines to age in bottle, not cask. Marchese Piero Tassinari, one of Chiari's young wine producers, has only endorses and perfects these new techniques but is convinced that even higher quality can be achieved.

Jane MacQuitty

Burton Anderson's Italian Selection Part 4



FOUNDED BY THE SUNDAY TIMES IN 1973

The Wine Club's Italy

A chance to try The Wine Club's highly successful region-by-region survey of the best of Italian wine. Burton Anderson, the top Italian Wine writer was asked to choose 12 regional selections. These come complete with Mr Anderson's tasting notes and background details.

His brief: to choose The Best wines Italy currently has on offer, irrespective of price.



The Selections average around £4.50 a bottle; they include delivery and Wine Club Membership for 1984. Here are three more of this popular series:

10 Piedmont

A mighty, yet ripe, Barolo; a Barbaresco you either keep three years or splash-discard three hours before dinner; a Dolcetto fat and full of purple fruit; and a brilliant demonstration of the Nebbiolo grape. Our best wine of The Italian Selection: Valentino Nefler's "Brico Mazzoni" a kind of Barolo made even richer, fruitier and easier-to-drink young. Sole white: the marvelous, full, dry Gavi di La Chiara.

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Vezzio 1982
Brico Mazzoni
Rocche dei Manzoni Estate 1979
Barbaresco DOC
Produttori del Barbaresco
Barolo DOC
Gerruzzi Estate 1979 (one bottle)

11 The Marches

The best recent examples of two great red DOCs of the Marches: Piceno and Conero; a lovely example of Abruzzo's soft Montepulciano; and another soft, spicy red from the Wine Club's Great Italian Discovery — the Di Majo Norante Estate in Molise. For whites: a stone-dry Verdicchio; and a hefty, mellow, well-rounded Trebbiano from Abruzzo.

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Trebbiano d'Abruzzo DOC
Nocidemi Estate 1982

Reds
Ramello Rosso
Di Majo Norante Estate
Rosso Conero DOC
Frederici & Capitani 1982
Montepulciano d'Abruzzo DOC
Nocidemi Estate 1981
Rosso Piceno Superiore DOC
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12 Sicily & Sardinia

Each island provides its best dry red, dry white and remarkable alternative to dry cherry.

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Out of Town

Theatre: Irving Wardle and Anthony Masters; **Photography:** Michael Young; **Galleries:** John Russell Taylor; **Dance:** John Percival

Glasgow, Royal (041 331 1234).
Today at 2.15 and 7.15pm.
Edinburgh, King's (031 229 1201).

Tues until April 7 at 7.30pm;
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Cranko's *Romeo and Juliet*, a big
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هكذا من الأصل

PREVIEW Films

Kid-glove treatment has the monster muzzled

We have waited so long for a film to be called from *La ténacité du temps* that the arrival of *Swann in Love* directed by Volker Schlöndorff can only seem an anti-climax. We have waited, in fact, rather longer than it took Proust to write the novel sequences: it was in the mid-1960s that the former actress, Nicole Stéphane first secured, from the author's niece, the screen rights to France's highest prose monument. Since then a wide range of directors, writers and financiers have tumbled away, converting the elaborate symphony of semi-autobiographical memories into viable dialogue, images, budgets and shooting schedules.

Their work was not completely without issue. Visconti enjoyed a grand stint in 1970-71, scouting for locations, distilling *The Cities of the Plain* into a screenplay with his regular writer, Suso Cecchi D'Amico, and dangle various actors before us: Alain Delon as Marcel, the narrator; Bardot, perhaps, as the aging Odette de Crécy, principal object of Swann's love. There were two concrete results: a script, published in 1978, and a lawsuit, when Visconti, fretting over delays and lack of finance, abandoned poor Proust for another film, *Ludwig*.

Joseph Losey then joined the project, and brought along Harold Pinter: by early 1973



Aesthetic appeal: Jeremy Irons as the melancholic Swann with Ornella Muti (Odette)

they had prepared a fresh script, drawn from the entire novel sequence but emphasizing themes of time and childhood. Their labours, again, drew forth certain fruit, including Pinter's published screenplay.

After two elaborate failures, then, how has Schlöndorff

muzzled the monster? The secret lies, perhaps in the script, initially prepared by Peter Brook and Jean-Claude Carrière for direction by Brook himself (the success of his stage *Carmen* upset that plan). As Carrière remarks: "Our gamble was that by dipping a bucket

Schlöndorff came to the project with a useful French technical training and a reputation for literary adaptations, albeit German; his films have been drawn from Ginter Grass (*The Tin Drum*) and Heinrich Böll (*The Lost Honour of Katherine Blum*), among others. For the battle with Proust, Schlöndorff tactfully used kid gloves, avoiding any jagged edges in style or bold strokes of interpretation. The spectator is simply, skillfully propelled through an unfussy script, brought to life with the aid of Sven Nykvist's crisp, sombre photography. Jacques Sannier's exquisite drawing-room sets, and brooding music by Hans Werner Henze.

And, naturally, the actors: Jeremy Irons, elegantly melancholic, appears as Swann, with the voluptuous Ornella Muti as Odette. Alain Delon - a Visconti survivor - plays the foppish wayward Baron de Charlus. "Swann could easily have been an Englishman", Nicole Stéphane argues, trying to deflect characteristic criticism, though, thanks to Pierre Arditi's excellent dubbing, Irons never lets his nationality peep through.

Geoff Brown

Swann in Love (Cart 18) opens in London on Thurs at the Lumière Cinema, St Martins Lane, WC2 (836 0691).

Films on TV

Ralph Richardson (one of several fine screen portrayals at this time) plays Baines, the builder at a London embassy who becomes the idol of a small boy, the son of the ambassador. When Baines is suspected of murdering his sharp-tongued wife, the boy tries to help by telling lies in his defence.

Reed was particularly good at directing children and he coaxed a marvelous performance out of the eight-year-old Bobby Henrey which has little of the embarrassing cuteness so often associated with child actors. Another happy piece of casting was that of the French actress, Michèle Morgan, as the embassy typist, with whom Baines has a furtive affair.

Prominent among the supporting cast is an actor who had been in films for 18 years and was at last about to become a star, Jack Hawkins.

Even if it is, in *Winnington*'s terms, brilliant craftsmanship rather than the deeply felt

statement of a film artist, *The Fallen Idol* remains a considerable achievement. Reed may sometimes overdo the stylistic flourishes, being too fond of the tilted camera, but his handling of characters and theme could hardly be bettered.

Peter Waymark

Also recommended: *The Plutonium* (1936): Cecil B. De Mille's epic Western, with Gary Cooper as Wild Bill Hickok and Jean Arthur as Calamity Jane (Channel 4, today, 2.30-4.30pm). *Introducer in the Dust* (1949): Courageous, for its time, expose of racial bigotry and lynching in the American South, directed by Clarence Brown from the novel by William Faulkner (Channel 4, today, 11.25pm-1am).

Fiddler on the Roof (1971): Overlaid with faithful adaptation of the hit musical with Topol as the poor milkman trying to find good husbands for his five daughters (BBC1, tomorrow, 8.25-10.20pm). *In Search of Anna* (1977): Ebon Storm's film in the BBC2 Australian season is about a man just out of jail having to choose between his old girlfriend and a model he meets

on the road (BBC2, tomorrow, 10.20-11.45pm).

Three Godfathers (1948): Allegorical Western in which a group of men rescue a dying woman's baby; John Wayne leads, John Ford directs (BBC2, Mon, 5.40-7.20pm).

The Exterminating Angel (1962): Luis Buñuel's deliciously surreal piece about a group of Mexican aristocrats mysteriously trapped in a room after a dinner party (Channel 4, Wed, 9-10.45pm).

Kind Hearts and Coronets (1949): Ealing comedy of a blacker sort, with Dennis Price with his eye on the family throne and eight versions of Alec Guinness standing in his way (BBC2, Fri, 5.40-7.20pm).

The Trials of Oscar Wilde (1960): Peter Finch makes a convincing Oscar, suing the Marquis of Queensbury (Lionel Jeffries) for libel; James Mason in support (BBC1, Fri, 10.50pm-12.55am).

Riff (1955): Jules Dassin's Parisian jewel caper, with a famous robbery sequence that lasts nearly half an hour without dialogue (BBC2, Fri, 11.35pm-1.35am). *First British television showing*

Critics' choice



Teacher: Michael Caine in *Educating Rita*

appealing second feature by Carroll Ballard, director of *The Black Stallion*, riding wild-life adventure and quirky comedy with a poetic contemplation of man and nature. Charles Martin Smith gives an amusing lead performance; the wolves are good, too.

THE RIGHT STUFF (15)

Warner West End (838 0791) Tom Wolfe's novel about America's space pioneers, brought to the screen as a sumptuous, three-hour epic. The style veers between irreverent comedy and worshipful, patriotic drama; compulsive viewing with sharp insights into space-race ballyhoo. Written and directed by Philip Kaufman; with Ed Harris, Scott Glenn and Sam Shepard.

RUMBLE FISH (18)

Lumière (838 8591) until Wed Francis Coppola's latest film defies all categories: a black and white fantasy about youthful hopes and alienation, shot with determined poetic intent and meshed with a riveting rhythmic score by Stewart Copeland from the rock group The Police. Featured players Matt Dillon and Mickey Rourke effortlessly merge into the crazy

world of *Rumble Fish*. Written and directed by Francis Ford Coppola. *Vertigo* (1958): Alfred Hitchcock's 1958 thriller, in which James Stewart's ex-convict with a fear of heights is obsessed and confused by Kim Novak. Sleek and preposterous on the surface, with turbulent emotions bubbling underneath (admirably complemented by Bernard Herrmann's anguished score).

LIANNA (18)

Screen on Baker Street (935 2772) A married woman drifts into a lesbian relationship with her night-school teacher - a situation presented by American writer-director John Schlesinger with tact, wit and clever use of modest resources. Marvellous lead performances from Linda Griffiths, Jane Fonda and Jon DeVries.

NEVER CRY WOLF (PG)

Classic Chelsea (352 5096) Classic Haymarket (833 1527) An ill-equipped government biologist, assigned to study Arctic wolves, becomes sucked into the mystery and wonder of life in the raw. As indeed do we. A highly

fabric of shadows, scudding clouds and surreal compositions. Based on a novel by S. E. Hinton.

STREAMERS (18)

Gate Notting Hill (221 0220/727 5756) Robert Altman's latest film continues his new love affair with the theatre. David Rabe's stark play about young, green soldiers waiting for shipment to Vietnam is simply but pungently brought to the screen with vivid performances and an acute sense of emotional claustrophobia. The entire principal cast won the Best Actor prize at the 1983 Venice Film Festival; Mitchell Lichtenstein, as the dandified homosexual, is particularly magnificent.

TESTAMENT (PG)

Gate Bloomsbury (837 1177) Nuclear war comes to a small American town; the doomsday narrative unfolds with no flinching, no jokes, and a strong emphasis on maternal love. Jane Alexander stars as the mother holding on to family life while society crumbles. The feature film debut of director Lyne Littman, experienced in television and documentary. With William Devane, Ross Harris and Roxana Zal.

TO BE OR NOT TO BE (PG)

Cinecanta Pantam Street (930 0531) Classic Chelsea (352 5096) Classic Tottenham Court Road (636 8148) Odeon Kensington (802 8644) Studio City (837 3340) Ernst Lubitsch's acerbic comedy wartime classic about Polish actors outwitting Nazi minions. Inoffensively remade as a vehicle for Mal Stegman and his wife Anne Baneroff. The original script's brilliant structure survives unaltered (along with much dialogue); the playing is agreeable, provided one forgets Jack Benny and Carol Lombard. Directed by Alan Johnson; with Tim Matheson, Charles Durning, José Ferrer.

UNDER FIRE (15)

Odeon Marble Arch (723 2011/2) Three journalists covering the Nicaraguan revolution in 1979 find their personal and professional allegiances pushed to breaking point. An old Hollywood plot rattle about in Roger Spottiswoode's thriller like old dried peas in a gleaming new pod. But the action is excitingly staged, and Spottiswoode finds good use for Nick Nolte's monolithic presence.

VERTIGO (PG)

Classic Chelsea (352 5096) Electric Screen (formerly Electric Portobello Road) (229 3694) Plaza Piccadilly Circus (437 1234) Long-awaited revival of Hitchcock's 1958 thriller, in which James Stewart's ex-convict with a fear of heights is obsessed and confused by Kim Novak. Sleek and preposterous on the surface, with turbulent emotions bubbling underneath (admirably complemented by Bernard Herrmann's anguished score).

The information in this column was correct at the time of going to press. Last changes are checked and are subject to check, using the telephone numbers given.

PREVIEW Music

Rock & Jazz

GEORGE BENSON
Tonight to Mon, Wembley Arena, Empire Way, Middlesex (902 1234); Tues, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham
A brilliant jazz-funk guitarist and a likable soul singer, Benson puts his own rhythm section together with the LSO strings on such songs as "The Masquerade", "Nature Boy" and "On Broadway". Last time, at the same venue, the formula worked beautifully.

HOWARD JONES
Tonight, Colston Hall, Bristol; tomorrow, St David's Hall, Cardiff; Mon, Guildford Civic Hall
Tues/Wed, Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (748 4081); Thurs, Cliffs Pavilion, Southend; Fri, Southampton Gaumont
Pale, tousled, wistful little-boy-blue in an outside overcoat - he is Gilbert O'Sullivan for the *Smash Hits* set.

ART BLAKEY
Tonight and Mon to Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Firth Street, London W1 (438 0747)
The master drummer brings in the latest edition of the Jazz Messengers, that nonpareil college of musical knowledge.

ROGER KELLAWAY
Tonight and Mon to Sat, Pizza on the Park, 11 Knightsbridge, London SW1 (235 5556)
This talented American pianist has turned up in many contexts - as a member of the old Clark Terry-Bob Brookmeyer quintet, for one, and also as a writer of musicals, film scores and ballet pieces. No doubt his solo recitals will reflect these varied interests.

THE KINKS
Tomorrow, Poole Arts Centre; Mon, Hammersmith Palais, 242 Shepherd's Bush Road, London W6 (748 2812); Wed, Southampton Gaumont; Fri, Manchester Apollo
More popular by far in the United States than at home, Ray Davies' band have responded to the demands of American stadium audiences by turning into a medium-metal band.

LEE KONITZ
Tomorrow, Strathallan Hotel, Birmingham; Mon, Gardner Centre, Brighton; Tues, Braunstone Hotel, Leicester; Wed, Vino's Wine Bar, Nottingham; Thurs, Band on the Wall, Manchester; Fri, Queen's Hall, Bradford
From his beginnings with Claude Thornhill and Lennie Tristano to his recent duets with Martial Solal and the work with his own delightful quartet, Konitz has been one of the major jazz voices of the alto saxophone. His accompaniment during this tour will come from the gifted American pianist Harold Danko, plus the fine British team of Dave Green (bass) and Trevor Tomkins (drums).

IAN DURY
Tomorrow, Oxford Apollo
An excellent communicator in any event, Dury should be heard and seen to particular advantage in this delightful theatre - one of the best on the rock-tour circuit.

JORMA KAUKONEN
Thurs, Dingwells, Camden Lock, Chalk Farm Road, London NW1 (257 4567)
Those with fond memories of *Surrealistic Pillow* and *After Sailing at Baxter's* will probably want to find out what the guitarist who once sounded so creative with Jefferson Airplane has been up to since psychedelia went sour.

Concerts

HASSON'S HAVANAISE
Today, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (935 2141, credit cards 930 9232)
Maurice Hasson has put together another unusual violin recital which includes Saint-Saëns's *Havanaise* and introduction and Rondo Capriccioso, Ravel's *Habanera* and *Zigane*, framed by sonatas from Debussy and Fauré (Op 13).

HANDEL
Today, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (828 3191, credit cards 928 6544)
Charles Farncombe conducts the Handel Orchestra, Handel Opera Chorus and various soloists in music from Handel's *First Founding Hospital* Concert. This includes the Founding Hospital Anthem, excerpts from *Solomon*, music for the Royal Fireworks, and Concerto Grosso Op 6 No 10.

BELLE EXCENTRIQUE
Tomorrow, 11.30am, Wigmore Hall
After Bizet's arrangement of Schumann's *Etudes en Forme de Canon*, Richard Markham and David Nettle's four hands at one piano undertake Satie's riotous *Belle Excentrique*. Chabrier's *Bourée Fantastique* echoes the same café concert tradition, and Schubert's *Marches Militaires* D 733 are scarcely more serious.

OROMONTE ENSEMBLE
Tomorrow, 6.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1 (242 8032)
The Oromonte Ensemble plays piano quartets by Mozart and Schumann, and a Trio in F sharp minor by Haydn.

PEZZI PIANISSIMO
Tomorrow, 7pm, Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3191, credit cards 928 6544)
The Redcliffe Ensemble offers the Pezzi Pianissimo of Benjamin Franklin, and the Clarinet Quartet and Violin Sonata of Alan Rawsthorne, two neglected composers. Frank Bridge's *Divertimento* will also be heard, and Paul Patterson's *Comedy*.

SCHUTZ'S PASSION
Tomorrow, 7.30pm, St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (222 1061)
The English Festival Chorus is conducted by Julian Williamson in Schutz's *St Matthew Passion*. Wolf's *Sachs Geistliche Lieder* and Schöenberg's *Friede auf Erden*.

LAMBERT RARITY
Tomorrow, 7.30pm, Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3191, credit cards 928 6544)
The "Great British Music Festival" ends with some worthwhile pieces, including Constant Lambert's rarely performed Music for Orchestra, Holst's coldly disquieting *Egdon Heath* and Bliss's *Checkmate Ballet Suite*.

LIGHT TUTINO
Mon, 1pm, St John's
The world premiere of Tutino's *Light Sonata* is sandwiched between Mozart's C major Adagio and Rondo and Schöenberg's *Kammersymphonie* No 1. Conducting the Jan Latham-Koenig Ensemble is Jan Latham-Koenig himself.

MONTEVERDI, GESUALDO
Mon, 7.30pm, St John's
Two hours later the Schütz Consort of London performs Monteverdi's *Lamento d'Arianna* and Lagrime d'Amante al Sepolcro dell'Amata. Then comes Gesualdo's *Responsorio Sabbato Sancto*. Heady stuff.

Opposites brought together

Such polarizations are usually facile, but Richard Strauss and Gustav Mahler can reasonably be spoken of as representing the conservative and radical tendencies respectively within the Austro-German musical tradition in the early years of this century. The juxtaposition of some of their major works in the Philharmonia Orchestra's forthcoming series "Mahler, Strauss and their influence" will, however, heighten our appreciation of their special qualities.

It starts next Tuesday at the Queen Elizabeth Hall with a showing of Ken Russell's film *Mahler* and the music begins in the Festival Hall 24 hours later with Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde* Prelude, an apt choice, as both Strauss and Mahler were renowned conductors of this opera. The main piece on Wednesday, though, is Mahler's Symphony No 1, to which is added Berg's *Wozzeck* Fragments, the first of a series of associated works to be included in the six concerts.

HUNGARIAN, HEBREW
Tues, 6pm, Purcell Room
In the Park Lane Group's Young Artists Series Catherine Wyn-Rogers sings Bartók's Hungarian Songs, Ravel's *Habanera* and Berg's Op 2 Songs.

ISSERLIS, EVANS
Tues, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
A particularly full programme is offered by the cellist Steven Isserlis with Peter Evans (piano). Sonatas by Poulenc and Fauré (Op 117), Bach's Suite No 5, Schumann's *Adagio and Allegro* Op 70 and Schostakovich's seldom-heard Pieces Op 2.

CHARACTERISTIC KROOL
Tues, 7.30pm, Purcell Room
Krool's Characteristic Pieces are among the rarities played by the Delos Quartet. So are Glazner's *Impresiones de la Puna*, Foote's *Night Piece*, Villa Lobos's *Bachianas Brasileiras* No 5, Jacobus's *Prelude and Rondo*, Rossini's *La Regata Veneziana* and Dr Johnson's Suite by William Reed.



Musical highlights: violinist Maurice Hasson (tonight, Wigmore Hall) and Jan Latham-Koenig, conducting his own ensemble in a lunchtime concert (Monday, St John's, Smith Square)



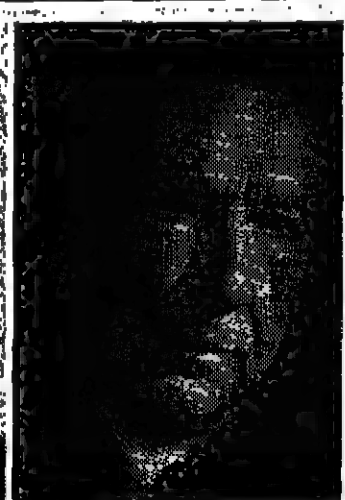
Poles apart: Gustav Mahler (left) and Richard Strauss

These include Berg's *Lulu Suite* next Thursday, Webern's *Orchestral Piece* Op 10 on April 8, his *Pasacaglia* Op 11 and Schoenberg's *Orchestral Pieces* Op 16 on April 11. The main Festival Hall item on Thursday, however, will be Strauss's *Don Quixote* and Mahler's *Kindertotenlieder*, followed on April 8 in the Queen Elizabeth Hall by Mahler's complete *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* and Strauss's late *Symphony for Wind Instruments*.

MALEDICTION
Tues, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall
Let us hope that in Liszt's *Malediction*, an extreme rarity, Michael Ponti plays the piano better than on his last visit to London. The rest of this attractive London Lyric Orchestra concert consists of Haydn's *Symphony* No 44, Holst's *St Paul's Suite* and Elgar's *Spanish Lady Suite*. Omri Hadari conducts.

BEAN'S BACH
Wed, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
David Bean dars to play Bach - the Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue - on the piano before going on to Busoni's mysterious *Baglioni* Nos 1, 4 and 6, Liszt's *Dante Sonata*, Chopin's *Polonaise* Op 26 No 2 and some Schubert Impromptus.

IN THE SOUTH
Wed, 7.30pm, St John's
Elgar's *In the South* Overture opens this concert by the Young Musicians' Symphony Orchestra, although the main attraction is Liszt's *Symphony* No 2, not



often performed. Christopher Adey conducts.

LAST JUDGEMENT
Thurs, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall
The Chorus of the Chelsea Harmonic Society combines with the Sinfonia Pro Musica and many soloists under Edward de Rivera in Spohr's *The Last Judgement*. It is all part of the Spohr bicentenary celebrations.

HANDEL'S PASSION
Thurs, 6.30pm, St Anne's, Gresham Street, London EC2
Handel's *Brook's Passion*, not a work that is performed every day, is heard in the Queen's Chapel, Timothy Wilson, Philip Salmon, Antony Rich, Mark Wildman, Lynton Black and the Locosoli Ensemble conducted by Peter Lea-Cox.

HAKENDORF'S HAVANAISE
Thurs, 7.30pm, Purcell Room
This week's second performance of Saint-Saëns's *Havanaise* is given by Carmel Hakendorf, who adds to it violin sonatas by Debussy (No 2), Prokofiev (No 2), the Corelli-Kreisler *La Folia*, and the world premiere of Stiles's *Ecolage*.

ANDREI NIKOLSKIY
Thurs, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall
The pianist Andrei NikolSKIY plays a large group of Rachmaninov Preludes, Liszt's *Sonata*, Prokofiev's *Sonata* No 7, and some Schubert-Liszt songs.

PERSICHI'S PETRASSI
Fri, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
Angelo Persicchi offers Petrassi's *Romanzetto* and other flute pieces such as Casella's *Sinfonia Burlesca*, Poulenc's *Sonata*, Clementi's *Sonata* No 2, J. C. Bach's *Sonata* No 5, Schubert's disappointing *Variations* D 802 and the Kurt Weill arrangement of Busoni's *Divertimento* Op 52.

Films: David Robinson and Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams

Opera

COVENT GARDEN
Rigoletto comes back into repertory at the Royal Opera House this week with Edward Downes conducting the Zeffirelli production, restaged after an absence of six years.
Performances on Tues and Fri, in between, on Mon and Thurs, comes Bellini's *Capriccio* and Montecchi, the other Romeo and Juliet, in a new production by Pier-Luigi Pizzi. The work has not been performed at Covent Garden since 1848: now it is conducted by Riccardo Muti with a strong cast led by Czech soprano Edita Gruberova. (240 1066)

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Tonight sees the first performance this time round of the company's solid cinematic staging of Prokofiev's epic, *War and Peace*. Further performances on Wed and Fri. (836 3161)

KENT OPERA
The company arrives in Plymouth

Opera

for a week at the Theatre Royal, with the new *Scarpia* in its handsome sets on Tues and Thurs. There are jollier evenings in prospect on Fri in Offenbach's *Robinson Crusoe*, and on Wed and Apr 7 with Verdi's *Falstaff*. (0752 689595)

OPERA NORTH
Nottingham's Theatre Royal is the venue this week for one performance only, not to be missed, on Fri, of Gluck's *Orpheus* and Eurycle with Felicity Palmer and Patricia Rozario. There are also two performances each of *The Barber of Seville* (Tues and Thurs) and *Tosca* in Italian (Wed and Apr 7). (0602 42328)

SCOTTISH OPERA
Anticipating their enterprising production of Cavalli's *Orion* next season, Scottish Opera present their stunning *L'Elisio* at

Glasgow's Theatre Royal this week on Tues, Thurs and Apr 7. (041 331 1234)

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA
WNO reach Birmingham's Hippodrome this week with a wide choice of colourful productions: their lively art deco *Mary Widdow* on Tues and Thurs, with *Maglo* *Flute on Fri*, *Valkyrie* on Apr 7, and, best of all, Janáček's *Jenufa*, produced by David Pountney and conducted by Richard Armstrong, on Wed. (021 622 7456)

OPERA 80
Opera 80 move into the last month of their tour of the highly successful and very well sung new production of *La Traviata*, set in 1928, and the revival of their Japanese-style *Così*. Ashington's Leisure Centre (0678 813254) has *Traviata* and *Così* on Mon and Tues respectively, and Ulverston's Corporation has (0229 522299) has two performances of *Traviata* (Thurs and Apr 7) and one *Così* (Fri).

TIMES GUERNSEY FISHERMAN'S SWEATER

Previous offers for Times Guernsey kniwear have proved very popular: both men and women appreciate the warmth, comfort and easy style it provides.

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THE TIMES

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Entertainments

OPERA & BALLET

BLOOMSBURY THEATRE (Central) 01-253 7300. Tonight 7.30 **MARCO POLO** (Opera). Tomorrow 8.00 **THE WALK** (Opera). Over 1000 seats. Free admission. **COVENT GARDEN** 01-253 3101. 8.00 **ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA**. Tonight 7.30 **THE WALK** (Opera). Tomorrow 8.00 **THE WALK** (Opera). Over 1000 seats. Free admission. **ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, COVENT GARDEN** 01-253 3101. 8.00 **ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA**. Tonight 7.30 **THE WALK** (Opera). Tomorrow 8.00 **THE WALK** (Opera). Over 1000 seats. Free admission. **THE ROYAL BALLET**. Tonight 7.30 **THE WALK** (Opera). Tomorrow 8.00 **THE WALK** (Opera). Over 1000 seats. Free admission. **THE ROYAL OPERA**. Tonight 7.30 **THE WALK** (Opera). Tomorrow 8.00 **THE WALK** (Opera). Over 1000 seats. Free admission.

CONCERTS

SHAW THEATRE 01-253 7777. 7.30 **THE WALK** (Opera). Tomorrow 8.00 **THE WALK** (Opera). Over 1000 seats. Free admission.

THEATRES

ALBERT 01-253 7777. 7.30 **THE WALK** (Opera). Tomorrow 8.00 **THE WALK** (Opera). Over 1000 seats. Free admission. **ALDWYCH** 01-253 7777. 7.30 **THE WALK** (Opera). Tomorrow 8.00 **THE WALK** (Opera). Over 1000 seats. Free admission. **ALDWYCH** 01-253 7777. 7.30 **THE WALK** (Opera). Tomorrow 8.00 **THE WALK** (Opera). Over 1000 seats. Free admission. **ALDWYCH** 01-253 7777. 7.30 **THE WALK** (Opera). Tomorrow 8.00 **THE WALK** (Opera). Over 1000 seats. Free admission.

LOOT

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ROYAL SHAKESPEARE

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THE INTERNATIONAL SHAKESPEARE

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LITTLE SHOP

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THE ASPEN PAPERS

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PARIS AFTER DARK

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THE BUSINESS OF MURDER

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A STREETCAR NAMED

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Chess

Stark truth after trail of blunders

I have been much exercised of late by the question of how and why one makes mistakes in chess and more importantly, how to avoid them. I should explain that last year I resumed playing match chess after the brief interval of 17 years. All went well for some time. I fought my way up from board six to board one and finished up the season with the score of 8½ out of 11. Satisfactory enough you might say, but I became a little uneasy at the number of blunders I was committing and my unease has deepened this season with an unusually large crop of them. So, being like most chess players, a bookish sort of chap, I turned to books to find out why I was making these errors and how I could avoid them. First of all I looked at an excellent book published a few years ago by George Allen & Unwin, *Chess Mistakes, How to Detect and Avoid Them* by Andrew Soltis (£5.95). This was well written, entertaining and knowledgeable but it failed to solve my problem. I experienced no difficulty in detecting my mistakes. They did not hide from me but came up to me boldly, smiting me fairly and squarely in the solar plexus. But recognition represents a mere 5 per cent of the problem. This must be a psychological matter. Well and good, there are books on psychology and chess such as grandmaster Nikolai Krogius's *Psychology in Chess* published about the same time as the book by Soltis (£4.95, by Pitman's). This, with its chapter on some deficiencies of attention and in particular with its last chapter on mistakes and its appendix on the link between age and success, did offer a solution to my problem. Quite recently, I turned to another well-written and entertaining work, *The Psychology of Chess* by W. R. Hartston & P. C. Wason (Batsford, £7.95). Since Wason is a well-known and respected psychologist and Hartston an accomplished player and writer, in addition to being an industrial psychologist, the work is undoubtedly a good one and very readable. Curiously, both authors are weak on the history of chess. They have, for example, got the case of Sultan Khan, the Indian wonder, quite wrong. "They write, correctly, that his opening play was bad even in his best years and appalling by modern standards. But the reason they advance, that 'the level of technique is far higher in the modern game, making it correspondingly more difficult to survive without the benefit of theoretical study', is quite fallacious." In his early years Sultan Khan knew only the old form of chess in which the pawns could move only one square at a time even at the beginning of the game and in which the pieces were far less mobile than they are today. Hence his adoption of close forms of opening and failure to develop his pieces rapidly. After much heart-searching I have finally discovered the reason for my blunders. It is simply that I am too old for the game. Though I can still tell a hawk from a hand-saw, especially when the wind is in the west, all too often I find that the wind is in the east. I am much encouraged, therefore, by the following game from this year's Wijk aan Zee grandmaster tournament, in which the Dutch master, Gert Ligterink, commits a blunder I would have been proud to have made. White: G. Ligterink. Black: A. Miles. Pirc Defence. Starting off with the Nimzo-witsch to the King's Pawn Black soon transposes to a Pirc Defence. 1 Nf3 Nf6 2 Bc4 Bc5 3 Bb5 Nc6 4 Nc3 Nf6 5 Nf3 Nf6 6 Bc4 Bc5 7 Bb5 Nc6 8 Nc3 Nf6 9 Nf3 Nf6 10 Bc4 Bc5 11 Bb5 Nc6 12 Nc3 Nf6 13 Nf3 Nf6 14 Bc4 Bc5 15 Bb5 Nc6 16 Nc3 Nf6 17 Nf3 Nf6 18 Bc4 Bc5 19 Bb5 Nc6 20 Nc3 Nf6 21 Nf3 Nf6 22 Bc4 Bc5 23 Bb5 Nc6 24 Nc3 Nf6 25 Nf3 Nf6 26 Bc4 Bc5 27 Bb5 Nc6 28 Nc3 Nf6 29 Nf3 Nf6 30 Bc4 Bc5 31 Bb5 Nc6 32 Nc3 Nf6 33 Nf3 Nf6 34 Bc4 Bc5 35 Bb5 Nc6 36 Nc3 Nf6 37 Nf3 Nf6 38 Bc4 Bc5 39 Bb5 Nc6 40 Nc3 Nf6 41 Nf3 Nf6 42 Bc4 Bc5 43 Bb5 Nc6 44 Nc3 Nf6 45 Nf3 Nf6 46 Bc4 Bc5 47 Bb5 Nc6 48 Nc3 Nf6 49 Nf3 Nf6 50 Bc4 Bc5 51 Bb5 Nc6 52 Nc3 Nf6 53 Nf3 Nf6 54 Bc4 Bc5 55 Bb5 Nc6 56 Nc3 Nf6 57 Nf3 Nf6 58 Bc4 Bc5 59 Bb5 Nc6 60 Nc3 Nf6 61 Nf3 Nf6 62 Bc4 Bc5 63 Bb5 Nc6 64 Nc3 Nf6 65 Nf3 Nf6 66 Bc4 Bc5 67 Bb5 Nc6 68 Nc3 Nf6 69 Nf3 Nf6 70 Bc4 Bc5 71 Bb5 Nc6 72 Nc3 Nf6 73 Nf3 Nf6 74 Bc4 Bc5 75 Bb5 Nc6 76 Nc3 Nf6 77 Nf3 Nf6 78 Bc4 Bc5 79 Bb5 Nc6 80 Nc3 Nf6 81 Nf3 Nf6 82 Bc4 Bc5 83 Bb5 Nc6 84 Nc3 Nf6 85 Nf3 Nf6 86 Bc4 Bc5 87 Bb5 Nc6 88 Nc3 Nf6 89 Nf3 Nf6 90 Bc4 Bc5 91 Bb5 Nc6 92 Nc3 Nf6 93 Nf3 Nf6 94 Bc4 Bc5 95 Bb5 Nc6 96 Nc3 Nf6 97 Nf3 Nf6 98 Bc4 Bc5 99 Bb5 Nc6 100 Nc3 Nf6 101 Nf3 Nf6 102 Bc4 Bc5 103 Bb5 Nc6 104 Nc3 Nf6 105 Nf3 Nf6 106 Bc4 Bc5 107 Bb5 Nc6 108 Nc3 Nf6 109 Nf3 Nf6 110 Bc4 Bc5 111 Bb5 Nc6 112 Nc3 Nf6 113 Nf3 Nf6 114 Bc4 Bc5 115 Bb5 Nc6 116 Nc3 Nf6 117 Nf3 Nf6 118 Bc4 Bc5 119 Bb5 Nc6 120 Nc3 Nf6 121 Nf3 Nf6 122 Bc4 Bc5 123 Bb5 Nc6 124 Nc3 Nf6 125 Nf3 Nf6 126 Bc4 Bc5 127 Bb5 Nc6 128 Nc3 Nf6 129 Nf3 Nf6 130 Bc4 Bc5 131 Bb5 Nc6 132 Nc3 Nf6 133 Nf3 Nf6 134 Bc4 Bc5 135 Bb5 Nc6 136 Nc3 Nf6 137 Nf3 Nf6 138 Bc4 Bc5 139 Bb5 Nc6 140 Nc3 Nf6 141 Nf3 Nf6 142 Bc4 Bc5 143 Bb5 Nc6 144 Nc3 Nf6 145 Nf3 Nf6 146 Bc4 Bc5 147 Bb5 Nc6 148 Nc3 Nf6 149 Nf3 Nf6 150 Bc4 Bc5 151 Bb5 Nc6 152 Nc3 Nf6 153 Nf3 Nf6 154 Bc4 Bc5 155 Bb5 Nc6 156 Nc3 Nf6 157 Nf3 Nf6 158 Bc4 Bc5 159 Bb5 Nc6 160 Nc3 Nf6 161 Nf3 Nf6 162 Bc4 Bc5 163 Bb5 Nc6 164 Nc3 Nf6 165 Nf3 Nf6 166 Bc4 Bc5 167 Bb5 Nc6 168 Nc3 Nf6 169 Nf3 Nf6 170 Bc4 Bc5 171 Bb5 Nc6 172 Nc3 Nf6 173 Nf3 Nf6 174 Bc4 Bc5 175 Bb5 Nc6 176 Nc3 Nf6 177 Nf3 Nf6 178 Bc4 Bc5 179 Bb5 Nc6 180 Nc3 Nf6 181 Nf3 Nf6 182 Bc4 Bc5 183 Bb5 Nc6 184 Nc3 Nf6 185 Nf3 Nf6 186 Bc4 Bc5 187 Bb5 Nc6 188 Nc3 Nf6 189 Nf3 Nf6 190 Bc4 Bc5 191 Bb5 Nc6 192 Nc3 Nf6 193 Nf3 Nf6 194 Bc4 Bc5 195 Bb5 Nc6 196 Nc3 Nf6 197 Nf3 Nf6 198 Bc4 Bc5 199 Bb5 Nc6 200 Nc3 Nf6 201 Nf3 Nf6 202 Bc4 Bc5 203 Bb5 Nc6 204 Nc3 Nf6 205 Nf3 Nf6 206 Bc4 Bc5 207 Bb5 Nc6 208 Nc3 Nf6 209 Nf3 Nf6 210 Bc4 Bc5 211 Bb5 Nc6 212 Nc3 Nf6 213 Nf3 Nf6 214 Bc4 Bc5 215 Bb5 Nc6 216 Nc3 Nf6 217 Nf3 Nf6 218 Bc4 Bc5 219 Bb5 Nc6 220 Nc3 Nf6 221 Nf3 Nf6 222 Bc4 Bc5 223 Bb5 Nc6 224 Nc3 Nf6 225 Nf3 Nf6 226 Bc4 Bc5 227 Bb5 Nc6 228 Nc3 Nf6 229 Nf3 Nf6 230 Bc4 Bc5 231 Bb5 Nc6 232 Nc3 Nf6 233 Nf3 Nf6 234 Bc4 Bc5 235 Bb5 Nc6 236 Nc3 Nf6 237 Nf3 Nf6 238 Bc4 Bc5 239 Bb5 Nc6 240 Nc3 Nf6 241 Nf3 Nf6 242 Bc4 Bc5 243 Bb5 Nc6 244 Nc3 Nf6 245 Nf3 Nf6 246 Bc4 Bc5 247 Bb5 Nc6 248 Nc3 Nf6 249 Nf3 Nf6 250 Bc4 Bc5 251 Bb5 Nc6 252 Nc3 Nf6 253 Nf3 Nf6 254 Bc4 Bc5 255 Bb5 Nc6 256 Nc3 Nf6 257 Nf3 Nf6 258 Bc4 Bc5 259 Bb5 Nc6 260 Nc3 Nf6 261 Nf3 Nf6 262 Bc4 Bc5 263 Bb5 Nc6 264 Nc3 Nf6 265 Nf3 Nf6 266 Bc4 Bc5 267 Bb5 Nc6 268 Nc3 Nf6 269 Nf3 Nf6 270 Bc4 Bc5 271 Bb5 Nc6 272 Nc3 Nf6 273 Nf3 Nf6 274 Bc4 Bc5 275 Bb5 Nc6 276 Nc3 Nf6 277 Nf3 Nf6 278 Bc4 Bc5 279 Bb5 Nc6 280 Nc3 Nf6 281 Nf3 Nf6 282 Bc4 Bc5 283 Bb5 Nc6 284 Nc3 Nf6 285 Nf3 Nf6 286 Bc4 Bc5 287 Bb5 Nc6 288 Nc3 Nf6 289 Nf3 Nf6 290 Bc4 Bc5 291 Bb5 Nc6 292 Nc3 Nf6 293 Nf3 Nf6 294 Bc4 Bc5 295 Bb5 Nc6 296 Nc3 Nf6 297 Nf3 Nf6 298 Bc4 Bc5 299 Bb5 Nc6 300 Nc3 Nf6 301 Nf3 Nf6 302 Bc4 Bc5 303 Bb5 Nc6 304 Nc3 Nf6 305 Nf3 Nf6 306 Bc4 Bc5 307 Bb5 Nc6 308 Nc3 Nf6 309 Nf3 Nf6 310 Bc4 Bc5 311 Bb5 Nc6 312 Nc3 Nf6 313 Nf3 Nf6 314 Bc4 Bc5 315 Bb5 Nc6 316 Nc3 Nf6 317 Nf3 Nf6 318 Bc4 Bc5 319 Bb5 Nc6 320 Nc3 Nf6 321 Nf3 Nf6 322 Bc4 Bc5 323 Bb5 Nc6 324 Nc3 Nf6 325 Nf3 Nf6 326 Bc4 Bc5 327 Bb5 Nc6 328 Nc3 Nf6 329 Nf3 Nf6 330 Bc4 Bc5 331 Bb5 Nc6 332 Nc3 Nf6 333 Nf3 Nf6 334 Bc4 Bc5 335 Bb5 Nc6 336 Nc3 Nf6 337 Nf3 Nf6 338 Bc4 Bc5 339 Bb5 Nc6 340 Nc3 Nf6 341 Nf3 Nf6 342 Bc4 Bc5 343 Bb5 Nc6 344 Nc3 Nf6 345 Nf3 Nf6 346 Bc4 Bc5 347 Bb5 Nc6 348 Nc3 Nf6 349 Nf3 Nf6 350 Bc4 Bc5 351 Bb5 Nc6 352 Nc3 Nf6 353 Nf3 Nf6 354 Bc4 Bc5 355 Bb5 Nc6 356 Nc3 Nf6 357 Nf3 Nf6 358 Bc4 Bc5 359 Bb5 Nc6 360 Nc3 Nf6 361 Nf3 Nf6 362 Bc4 Bc5 363 Bb5 Nc6 364 Nc3 Nf6 365 Nf3 Nf6 366 Bc4 Bc5 367 Bb5 Nc6 368 Nc3 Nf6 369 Nf3 Nf6 370 Bc4 Bc5 371 Bb5 Nc6 372 Nc3 Nf6 373 Nf3 Nf6 374 Bc4 Bc5 375 Bb5 Nc6 376 Nc3 Nf6 377 Nf3 Nf6 378 Bc4 Bc5 379 Bb5 Nc6 380 Nc3 Nf6 381 Nf3 Nf6 382 Bc4 Bc5 383 Bb5 Nc6 384 Nc3 Nf6 385 Nf3 Nf6 386 Bc4 Bc5 387 Bb5 Nc6 388 Nc3 Nf6 389 Nf3 Nf6 390 Bc4 Bc5 391 Bb5 Nc6 392 Nc3 Nf6 393 Nf3 Nf6 394 Bc4 Bc5 395 Bb5 Nc6 396 Nc3 Nf6 397 Nf3 Nf6 398 Bc4 Bc5 399 Bb5 Nc6 400 Nc3 Nf6 401 Nf3 Nf6 402 Bc4 Bc5 403 Bb5 Nc6 404 Nc3 Nf6 405 Nf3 Nf6 406 Bc4 Bc5 407 Bb5 Nc6 408 Nc3 Nf6 409 Nf3 Nf6 410 Bc4 Bc5 411 Bb5 Nc6 412 Nc3 Nf6 413 Nf3 Nf6 414 Bc4 Bc5 415 Bb5 Nc6 416 Nc3 Nf6 417 Nf3 Nf6 418 Bc4 Bc5 419 Bb5 Nc6 420 Nc3 Nf6 421 Nf3 Nf6 422 Bc4 Bc5 423 Bb5 Nc6 424 Nc3 Nf6 425 Nf3 Nf6 426 Bc4 Bc5 427 Bb5 Nc6 428 Nc3 Nf6 429 Nf3 Nf6 430 Bc4 Bc5 431 Bb5 Nc6 432 Nc3 Nf6 433 Nf3 Nf6 434 Bc4 Bc5 435 Bb5 Nc6 436 Nc3 Nf6 437 Nf3 Nf6 438 Bc4 Bc5 439 Bb5 Nc6 440 Nc3 Nf6 441 Nf3 Nf6 442 Bc4 Bc5 443 Bb5 Nc6 444 Nc3 Nf6 445 Nf3 Nf6 446 Bc4 Bc5 447 Bb5 Nc6 448 Nc3 Nf6 449 Nf3 Nf6 450 Bc4 Bc5 451 Bb5 Nc6 452 Nc3 Nf6 453 Nf3 Nf6 454 Bc4 Bc5 455 Bb5 Nc6 456 Nc3 Nf6 457 Nf3 Nf6 458 Bc4 Bc5 459 Bb5 Nc6 460 Nc3 Nf6 46

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today

RUGBY UNION: The County Championship final is being fought between Gloucestershire, who have won it five times in the last 12 years, and their West Country neighbours, Somerset, whose last success was in 1923. There is live commentary on Radio 2, from 3pm, plus highlights on *Hugbo Special*, BBC1, 8.30-9.15pm.

GRAND NATIONAL: This afternoon's race is particularly significant for two trainers. Michael Dickinson, who has won every important steeplechase except the National, hopes to break his duck with either Ashley House or Carls Wager, while Mrs Jenny Pitman is fielding last year's winner, Corbiere, and going for the National and Cheltenham Gold Cup double last achieved in 1976 by the late Fred Rimell. Live coverage from Aintree, BBC1, 3.20pm.

BRASS FOR CHARITY: The London Brass Virtuosi, under its founder/conductor David Honeyball, in a programme which ranges from solo trumpet pieces by Purcell and Clarke to chamber jazz miniatures written for Duke Ellington and the film music of John Williams. In aid of multiple sclerosis. Christ Church, Hampstead Square, London NW3, 7.30pm. For information telephone: 01-456 5521.

HANDEL IN LONDON: A series of special concerts, opera performances, lectures, symposia and other events, including an eighteenth-century masque in the gardens of the Victoria and Albert Museum, to mark the bi-centenary of the Great Handel Commemoration of 1784 which in turn marked the 25th anniversary of the composer's death. The celebration starts tonight with a concert in the Queen Elizabeth Hall (see Concerts, page 17) and continues until Nov. Information from Jeffrey Lacey, Royal Society of Musicians (01-493 7453 or 01-549 9583).

SNAPPING OUT: The *Saturday Night Theatre* production is a play by Martin Worth based on the true story of Susan Swatland, a physical education student who, defected to the Unification Church of Sun Myung Moon (the Moonies) and was discovered by her parents living a life of near-slavery in San Francisco. Susan is played by Lesley Dunlop. Radio 4, 8.30-10pm.

Tomorrow

SILVER ON SHOW: A selection of silver objects from the Elizabethan to the Edwardian periods goes on display in the State Rooms and Great Hall of Burghly House, Stamford, Lincolnshire. Most of the pieces have not been seen in public for many years and include a spectacular Queen Anne wine cistern by Philip Collins (c.1710) which is five feet long. Until Oct 7, Mon-Sat 11am-5pm, Sun and Good Friday 2-5pm. Admission to houses and exhibition £2.50; reductions for children.

Monday

THOMAS IN THE CITY: A collection of 25 bold and imaginative paintings and drawings by art teacher David Cheepen. They include "Thomas in the City", a beautiful image, measuring about 6in by

5in and crafted with immense delicacy, of a cat superimposed on St Paul's Cathedral, and "Revolving Instruction", a striking self-portrait. Cheepen says of his work: "I paint as a child would paint if he or she could paint as I paint." Portal Gallery, 16a Grafton Street, London W1 (01-629 3800). Until Apr 10, Mon-Fri 10am-5.45pm, Sat 11am-2pm. Free.

LONDON UNROLLED: A colourful panoramic print rolls from a screw-top box to show a 14ft-long view of the Thames from Vauxhall Bridge to the Tower in 1822. This rare item in a sale of fine decorative prints is expected to fetch about £1,000. A panorama of Sidmouth, Devon, in 1815, framed despite its 9ft length, is expected to sell for £500. The star lot is an album of Swiss views, estimated at £10,000. Phillips, Eversham Street, London W1 (01-625 6602) at 11am and 2pm.

Tuesday

GOTHIC ART: Thirty Gothic wood carvings and Old Master paintings from the collection of Dr Peter Hiltzberger of Vienna come for sale today and tomorrow. The period is appreciated most in Germany nowadays and the collection demonstrates a Germanic eye at work. The most distinguished carving is a large limestone Virgin and Child (c.1480) of the Brixen school. Among the paintings is a Jan de Beer "Adoration of the Magi" (c.1520). Sotheby's, Bond Street, London W1 (01-493 8080), 10.30am.

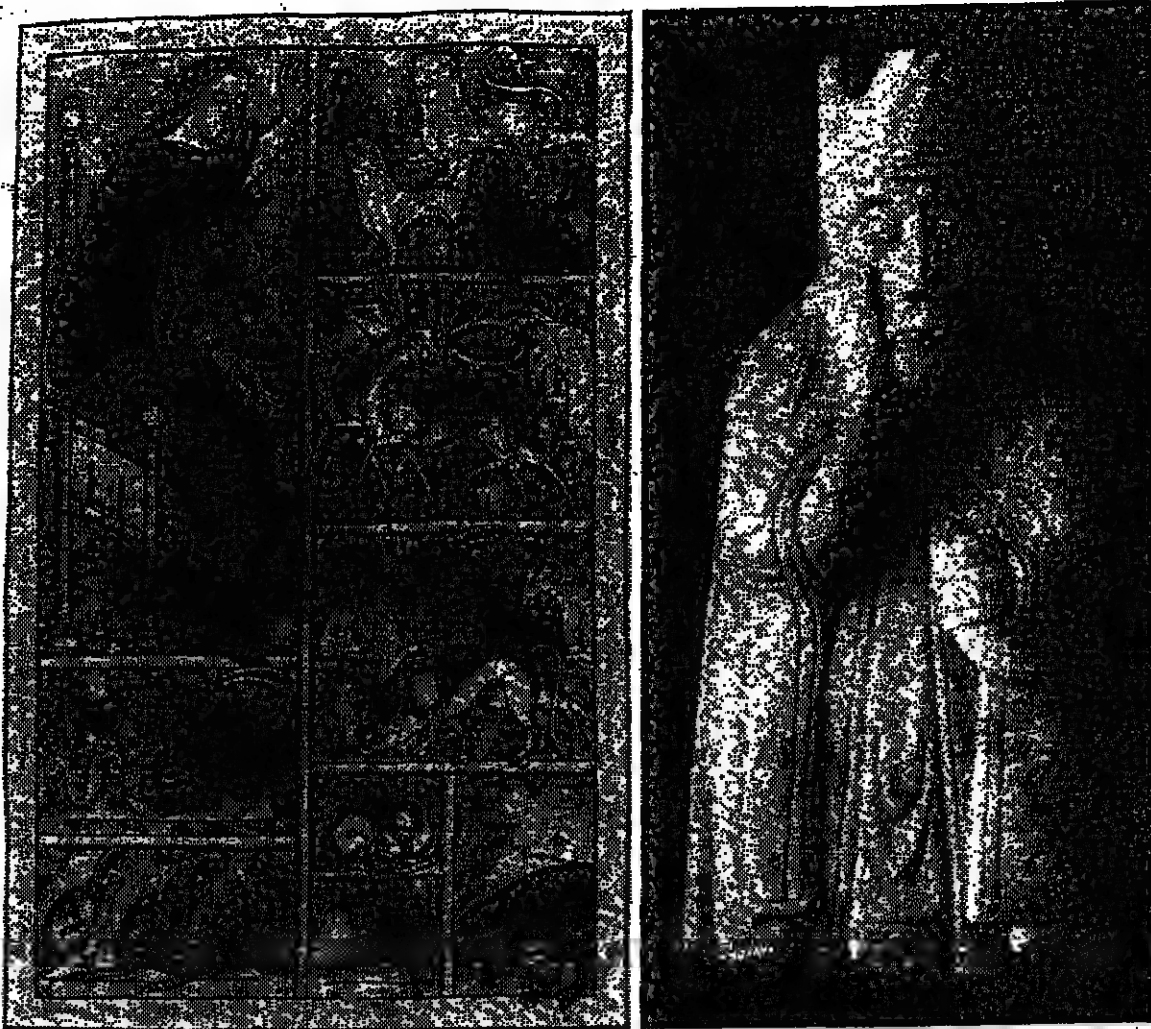
ROMAN ROBERT: Red chalk drawings of Rome and its environs by Herbert Robert demonstrate the artist's enjoyment of the great southern capital and show how little Rome has changed since the eighteenth century. Today's sale also includes two charming sketches in the Roman cartonnage by a large limestone Virgin and Child (c.1480) of the Brixen school. Among the paintings is a Jan de Beer "Adoration of the Magi" (c.1520). Sotheby's, Bond Street, London W1 (01-493 8080), 10.30am.

STRANGE INTERLUDE: Eugene O'Neill's five-hour play about one woman's search for identity over 30 years. Glenda Jackson, Edward Petherbridge, Brian Cox and James Hazeldine, directed by Keith Hack. Duke of York's (01-336 5122). Previews today, Wed, Thurs at 6pm, opens Fri at 6pm. Mon-Sat at 6pm, no matinees.

THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE: Inaugural production of Anthony Quayle's Compass Company (see page 18).

QUBOOL KIYA MAIN NE: In English/Do, Do, this is a Hindustani-language play by Mubashir Siddiqui, the first Asian play to get a run in a major London theatre. Indian stage star Himayatullah has come over to take a leading role in this comedy which looks at the problems of arranged marriages and old and lonely Asians in Britain. Shaw Theatre, 100 Euston Road, London NW1 (01-388 7727). Opens today at 7.30pm. Until Apr 7, Tues-Sat at 7.30pm; matinee Sat at 3.30pm.

KINGS: The Play For Today, by Barrie Keeffe, on of our most incisive young dramatists, is about a Jamaican-born train driver who has spent a happy life in England but plans, in retirement, to return to his native country. But when he proposes to hand over the deeds of his house to his two daughters, their reaction is not what he expects. Thomas Baptiste plays Mr King, with Josette Simon and Ella Wilder as the girls. BBC1, 8.25-10.45pm.



Norman bequests: From the Hayward Gallery's exhibition of English Romanesque art, a folio from a Bestiary of about 1200 showing Adam naming the animals, and a Queen from the twelfth-century Lewis Chessmen (Thursday)

Wednesday

A WEAVER'S LIFE: ETHEL MAIRET: One of the major figures in the British arts and crafts movement during the first half of this century. Ethel Mairet was influential in many areas connected with textiles and weaving, both through her writings and the example of her own work. She was also a famous collector and an important teacher. This show is based on the large collection of garments, lengths of cloth, samples, photographs, diaries and miscellaneous papers she left when she died in 1952. Crafts Council Gallery, 12 Waterloo Place, Lower Regent Street, London SW1 (01-930 4811). Until May 27, Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm.

A CIRCLE OF PORTRAITS AND SELF-PORTRAITS: Avigdor Aronka, Frank Auerbach, Lucien Freud and R. B. Kitaj are foreign figurative artists who are mutual friends and have made London an important centre for their work. This exhibition of prints and drawings from the past decade finds common ground in each artist's interest in the human face and his use of immediate family or close friends as sitters. Marlborough Graphics, 39 Old Bond Street, London W1 (629 5161). Until May 12, Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm; Sat 10am-12.30pm. Free.

BARNETT FREEDMAN: Though Freedman's book illustrations remain well-known, most of his other work—paintings, drawings, lithographs—has been quite neglected since his death in 1958. Now they have been taken out from storage and are being shown again, revealing an artist of rare integrity and consistency, whose vision remained constant whatever medium of fine or decorative art he was working in. Gillian Jason Gallery, 42 Inverness Street, London NW1 (267 4835). Until May 18, Tues-Sat 10.30am-6.30pm.

MASTER PAINTINGS: Works by Carpaccio are very rarely seen on the market and the "Virgin and Child with Saints" in an Old Master painting sale today is expected to fetch £300,000-£400,000. The sale also boasts "Allegory of Winter and Summer" by Pieter A. A lower still-life by Jan van Huysum and a skating scene by Aelbert Cuyp. Sotheby's, Bond Street, London W1 (01-493-8080) at 11am.

CRISSES FROM THE MAMMAL HOUSE: New play by Terry Johnson (author of *Insignificance*), about a journey from a penitence zoo on the south coast, to Mauritius and back. Cast includes Roger Rees, David Llewellyn, Jennie Stoller, Leo Winger, Nizwar Karani, directed by Phil Young (author of *Crystal Clear*). Opens at the Royal Court in May. Leicester Haymarket Studio (0533 559797). Preview today at 7.45pm, opens tomorrow at 7.45pm. Until Apr 28, Mon-Thurs at 7.45pm, Fri and Sat at 8.15pm.

CAMILLE: New play by Pam Gorm, based on the Dumas story, *La Dame aux Camellias*, with music by Liszt and choreography by Anthony van Laest. Frances Barber plays the heroine, Marguerite Gautier; Nicholas Farrell is Armand Duval; and Polly James is Prudence. Directed by Ron Daniels. The

Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 295623). Today-Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory.

BRITISH FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP: After being outplayed by the French in Paris recently, England will be hoping to put on a more convincing display against a Northern Ireland team which, though largely drawn from the lower divisions of the league, has a habit of rising to the occasion. There is live commentary from Wembley on Radio 2, from 7.30pm, and television highlights on *Midweek Sports Special*, ITV, from 10.40pm.

SIXTY YEARS OF SCHOOL RADIO: The first broadcast for schools was a music lecture from Savoy Hill by Sir Walford Davies on April 4, 1924. John Dunn tells the story of the service, with reminiscences from writers, actors and producers and extracts from famous series like *How Things Began*, *Singing Together* and *Rhoda Power Stories From World History*, and looks at plans for the future. Radio 4, 8.45-8.45pm.

Thursday

ROLLERCOASTER: A new three-hour live programme starts an experimental run on Radio 4. Presented by Richard Baker, it incorporates the existing *Daily Service* and *Morning Story* but also includes a chat show, outside broadcasts and an examination of an issue of the week, on which listeners will be

invited to give their views. The programme will run every Thursday for six months and then be assessed in the light of audience reaction. Radio 4, 9am-noon.

ENGLISH ROMANESQUE ART 1066-1200: Artistic activity in Norman England produced such great illuminated manuscripts as the Winchester Bible; the richly coloured stained glass of Canterbury Cathedral; the gilt Gloucester Candlestick and the Cross, as well as sculpture to embellish the new churches. The finest surviving works are exhibited, together with an audio-visual programme on the buildings for which they were made. Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3144). Until July 8, Mon-Wed 10am-6pm; Thurs-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun noon-6pm. Adults £2, students, schoolchildren, unwaged pensioners £1; Tues and Wed 6-8pm and all day Mon £1.

WOLINCELLOS GALORE: There is a fine range of cellos for sale, not too heavily priced. The star item is an Italian cello of 1878 by Enrico Rocca (estimate £10,000-£12,000) but cheaper ones are a Paul Bailey of 1898 (£7,000-£9,000) or a German cello of around 1875 (£1,000-£1,500). The sale also has an interesting selection of eighteenth-century printed music, all estimated at well below £100. Christie's, 3 King Street, London SW1 (01-839 9060) at 11am.

THE COUNTRY GIRLS: Desmond Davis's film traces the lives of two Irish girls from school days to adulthood during the 1950s. With Mavea Germaine, Jill Goyke and Sam Neil. Carl PG. Minerva, Knightsbridge (235 4225/6).

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE: A new production by the Royal Shakespeare Company, directed by John Caird. With Ian McDiarmid as Shylock and Frances Tomelty as Portia. Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 205329). Previews today and Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory.

BREAKNECK: Vince Foxall's play about Ruth Ellis is developed from a true woman piece and a later full-length play on the subject of the last woman to be executed in Britain. She was convicted of shooting her lover and died in 1955. Philip Hedley directs Mary Maddox as Ruth. Theatre Royal, Stratford East, London E15 (01-534 0310). Previews today, Fri, Apr 7 at 8pm, opens Apr 8 at 7.30pm. Until May 5, Mon-Sat at 8pm.

Friday

ARTISTS IN CAMERA: Photographic studios proliferated during the Victorian period and any famous person was likely to be photographed for family and friends or to satisfy the public curiosity. Those in the art world were no exception. This exhibition concentrates

on photographs of Victorian painters, their families, studios and models. A large section on the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood includes some rare photographs of John Hunt from his own family collection.

The Victorian Art World in Photographs, National Portrait Gallery, 2 St Martin's Place, London WC2 (01-930 1552). Until June 24, Mon-Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 10am-6pm; Sun 2-5pm. Free.

DUE TO AN ACT OF GOD: Intelligent, low-budget drama. Festival, examining the human mudpie that follows a nuclear accident in a rural pocket of West Germany. Partly financed by two German television stations, who subsequently refused to transmit it. Directed by Rainer Boldt, with Renate Schroeter, Wigand Wittig, Johanna Rudolph. Provocatively programmed with the shortened version of Leni Riefenstahl's Nazi congress film *Triumph of the Will* (1935). Carl's, Everyman Cinema, London NW3 (01-435 1525). Until Apr 14.

VENICE PRESERVED: Thomas Otway's play was written in 1682 and depicts a conspiracy to overthrow a republic. It is one of our most frequently revived tragedies, apart from Shakespeare. This National Theatre production is directed by Peter Gill, with a cast including Ian McKellen, Michael Pennington, Jane Lapotnik, Brewster Mason and Hugh Paddick. Lyttelton (01-928 2252). Previews today, Apr 7, Apr 9-11 at 7.45pm, opens Apr 12 at 7pm. In repertory.

PEG: New musical with music and lyrics by David Heneker, book by Robin Miller, loosely based on the play *Peg O' My Heart* by J. Hartley Manners. Stan Phillips, Edward Duke, Martin Smith, and Broadway star Ann Morrison in the title role, lead in the tale of a poor American girl introduced into English society in 1913. Phoenix (01-636 2294/5/8611). Previews today at 8pm, Apr 7 at 8pm and 8.30pm, Apr 9-11 at 8pm. Opens Apr 12 at 7.30pm. Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 8pm and 8.30pm; matinees Thurs at 3pm and Sat at 12pm.

HAMLET: Simon Cadell takes the title role, with Malcolm Tierney, Sylvia Kyr, and Peter Howell as Claudius, Gertrude and Polonius respectively, directed by Peter Farago. Birmingham Repertory (021 238 4455). Preview today and Apr 7 at 7.30pm and 8pm, opens Apr 8 at 7.30pm. Until May 5, Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 8pm; matinees Thurs at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm.

French connexion: Pam Gems, author of *Camille* (see Wednesday)

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VENICE PRESERVED: Thomas Otway's play was written in 1682 and depicts a conspiracy to overthrow a republic. It is one of our most frequently revived tragedies, apart from Shakespeare. This National Theatre production is directed by Peter Gill, with a cast including Ian McKellen, Michael Pennington, Jane Lapotnik, Brewster Mason and Hugh Paddick. Lyttelton (01-928 2252). Previews today, Apr 7, Apr 9-11 at 7.45pm, opens Apr 12 at 7pm. In repertory.

PEG: New musical with music and lyrics by David Heneker, book by Robin Miller, loosely based on the play *Peg O' My Heart* by J. Hartley Manners. Stan Phillips, Edward Duke, Martin Smith, and Broadway star Ann Morrison in the title role, lead in the tale of a poor American girl introduced into English society in 1913. Phoenix (01-636 2294/5/8611). Previews today at 8pm, Apr 7 at 8pm and 8.30pm, Apr 9-11 at 8pm. Opens Apr 12 at 7.30pm. Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 8pm and 8.30pm; matinees Thurs at 3pm and Sat at 12pm.

HAMLET: Simon Cadell takes the title role, with Malcolm Tierney, Sylvia Kyr, and Peter Howell as Claudius, Gertrude and Polonius respectively, directed by Peter Farago. Birmingham Repertory (021 238 4455). Preview today and Apr 7 at 7.30pm and 8pm, opens Apr 8 at 7.30pm. Until May 5, Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 8pm; matinees Thurs at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm.

French connexion: Pam Gems, author of *Camille* (see Wednesday)

At Home/Photography

Make light work of portraits with a flashgun



What the camera saw: photographer Brian Harris of *The Times* used natural light from a window and went in close on the face to exclude all background for this simple but honest portrait of actor John Thaw. The smoke ring was luck. 55mm lens, 1/60 sec at f4, using Tri-X

Metallized reflectors, umbrellas, honeycomb diffusers, booms with lights dangling from them and all the paraphernalia associated with a session in the professional photographer's studio are unlikely to put the poor subject at ease. Sadly, despite sterling efforts by the photographer, the results are often disappointing: pinched expressions and nervous smiles. Taking portraits in the more relaxed atmosphere of a sitting room is one answer. A vast array of lighting may give technical perfection, but the qualities of daylight are hard to beat. Generous light from a window or two and a moderately powerful flashgun will allow for perfectly good indoor pictures. What the pictures may lack technically, they more than make up for in spontaneity.

Alternatively, tungsten photo-flood lights of about 1,275 watts in general reflectors are a reasonably cheap solution where more exact control of the lighting is desired. The light they give off is continuous and will not vary. When using photo-floods, however, you should remember

that a moving subject will blur at a reasonable aperture of f8. In addition, daylight cannot be mixed with tungsten lighting if accurate colour photography is the intention. A blue 80A or 80B daylight-to-artificial-light filter is also necessary with film which is balanced for daylight, or you must purchase film balanced specially for tungsten light. With black-and-white film it is possible to mix daylight and tungsten, but accurate as it is tungsten lighting has considerable drawbacks: in particular, the heat from the glaring lights makes life very uncomfortable for the subject.

A mixture of daylight and electronic flash is more versatile and here, there are ways of prejudging the effects of fill-in flash. For instance, ask your subject to sit or stand near the window. The strong directional angle of the light will create strong shadow contrast, giving strength and depth to the portrait.

Next, examine from different angles the way that the light falls. In general, faces in semi-profile are more appealing than full on. It is not an accident that

passport pictures are invariably unflattering.

As with all composition, keep the geometry and the background simple and use the diagonals within the frame to create a sense of tension. With an idea of how the picture will look, shoot a few frames with available light only and the subject static, as a reference. If, as is likely, the contrast created by a single light source proves too "dramatic" for photographer and subject, a simple way exists to reduce the density of shadow on that side of the face. Place a piece of white card next to the shadowed area—in other words, opposite the source of light—and this will reflect light back on to the shadow and reduce the contrast. A flash unit—known as a "slave"—could also be placed behind the subject to give outline to his hair.

If this is insufficient, then it is time to consider fill-in flash light. Direct flash will cause an unpleasant shadowy rim behind the subject; the light must be diffused. The easiest way to do this is by "bouncing" flash light off the ceiling or wall. If these

are too high or far away, a piece of white card will do.

A word of warning. Deep set eyes cause problems when flash light is bounced off the ceiling: harsh shadows form under the eyes. In such a case, bounce the light off a piece of card placed lower down so as to throw some light into the eye sockets.

Otherwise, off-camera direct flash can be used in conjunction with a black background to absorb shadow, provided it is possible to adjust the manual setting to 1/4 to 1/8 of full power. If not, a less predictable method is to place a clean white handkerchief over the flash head or a sheet of tracing paper in the path of the flash.

Reflections from spectacles also present an obstacle. Tilt them forward a little to change the angle of reflection, and the obstacle is removed. Judging precisely what the result of fill-in flash will look like depends on the ratio of the main source of light to that of the flash. A notion of the final image can be gained by placing a small "modelling light" of say 100 watts as near as possible to the flash (not too close or it

might melt the plastic) and squinting at the scene through almost closed eyes. If nothing else, this should amuse your sitter!

Finally, there is that all important ingredient: expression. While setting up the "studio", talk to your subject. Observe closely his mannerisms and look for any characteristic facial movements. Later on, it may help to ask someone else to do the talking so you can concentrate on pressing the button at the right moment. Most people move backwards and forwards in conversation and you will find it easier to move the camera backwards and forwards in time with them rather than constantly refocusing. Provided of course, that the camera is not mounted on a tripod.

Working in a more informal way, as I have suggested, may feel unpredictable or frustrating at the time, but the chances are that the outcome will be a memorable portrait, full of character, and not merely a perfectly lit pose.

Roy Cuckoo

Out and About/Riding

Slinking into heaven on horseback

"Slinking into heaven" is how John Fowles described visiting forests, and what better way to do this than on horseback? One of the most appealing things about trees is their air of secrecy and mystery. Once you have entered a forest, there is something deliciously furtive about your progress.

I had chosen Bramshill for any ride—a forest made up of some 30 blocks of woodland, mainly pine, straddling the Hampshire-Berkshire border. Amber was my horse, and Kathy my escort, for a two-hour back around the plantation.

In Hampshire you are never far from woodland. After Surrey and West Sussex, it is the most densely wooded English county, described by Daniel Defoe in 1734 as "one inexhaustible store-house of timber". At around 50 years' old, Bramshill is a relatively young forest, and fairly typical of those planted in the 1920s by the newly established Forestry Commission. The terrain is largely heathland and heather, which is why it is mainly a pine forest. Only very old forests have soils heavy and rich enough to support hardwoods. The village of Eversley, our starting point, was once the home of Charles Kingsley, a keen rider and huntsman who

used to compose his sermons while out chopping wood. He often said that God was better worshipped in a forest than in a church.

As we entered the forest, leaving the Blackwater River behind us, the most striking thing was the variety of scenery—from the mysterious depths of the interior, which can be so dark it is almost like night, to the exposed plains left bare by extensive tree felling. The peace was heavenly. The sandy soil, with its light covering of pine needles and fern, acts as a kind of blanket which seems to soak up all the sound. You can't even hear the hooves of the horse behind you.

The best time for forest riding is dawn. Most wild animals will avoid coming out to feed in broad daylight, preferring early morning or late evening, and on a horse you are in a good position to see them. They're less likely to be disturbed by people on foot, and in Bramshill you can see rabbits, badgers, several types of deer, and even the occasional stoat.

One of the things I love about forest riding is that there are logs—lots and lots of them—which offer a natural way of jumping. Riders who might be a little intimidated by the thought of a formal jumping lesson take things, quite literally, in their stride in the forest. It is actually more difficult to avoid a jump than to jump it in some cases. And there's that feeling that even if you do fall, there's often a carpet of moss to cushion the blow.

Our ride was a large one—10 of us—and we split up into groups of twos and threes for a fast canter, to avoid what could have turned into a cavalry charge through the undergrowth. Horses love to race, and pay little attention to the fact that some overhanging branches are finely positioned for giving their unsuspecting passengers a sock in the eye.

Hanging branches are, of course, an occupational hazard of this type of riding country, and you are not going to be popular if you pull them aside, merely to let them spring back into the rider's face. Keep your distance, both in front and behind.

neither wet nor dry, when the stones are just coming up to the surface. One of our horses went lame on the ride. We took it as a warning.

Our route took us near Bramshill House, designed originally for James I's son Henry, now the police training college. The trees here are thought to be the first Scots pines in England, planted by James I. Longer rides go on to Yately, and Hartley Wintney by way of Hazely Heath, but we headed back towards the river, returning via New Mill Ford—to wash the mud off the horses' feet. Despite warnings that fords in winter can cause chapped heels, Bramshill riders have had problems with mud fever, so it's best to wash the mud away.

There are few restrictions on riding in forests. The most important is that you have to stick to the existing tracks. In some forests, this is a by-law, and you will be turned out if you disobey. "There is nothing more efficient than the shodded horse's hoof as an excavator of the ground", Ralph Hodgson, the chief forester at Bramshill, told me. It digs up the surface, which can expose tree roots to damage and disease.

It is best to avoid areas of ploughing and planting, and



Muddled waters: Riders from the Rycroft Stables in Eversley made through the New Mill Ford

quarries. Deep holes and ridges left by heavy lorries and machinery are obvious hazards. And steer clear of tree-felling operations, which are always clearly marked. Apart from the dangers of falling timber, the sound of the chainsaw can frighten your horse into bolting. Otherwise, the usual forest rules apply: don't cause damage,

disturb wildlife, or drop litter; be aware of fire risk; show courtesy to other users of the forest; and do not erect jumps where other less experienced riders may choose the same route.

You need a riding permit for most forests. At Bramshill, you are issued with a one-year permit, which comes with a tag to display on your bridle. Not that you would be shot for innocently riding through without one, but a forester has a fair idea of who is trying to avoid payment, and showing a clean pair of heels at a fast gallop is not the way to behave should you happen to meet him.

Anne Whitehouse

Easy paths through the forest

Stables offering hacking in Bramshill Forest: Rycroft Stables, New Mill Lane, Eversley, Hampshire (0734 727761). Hacking £6.50 per hour. Also lunch rides through the forest, stopping at local inns. Wellington Riding, Basingstoke Road, Heckfield, Basingstoke, Hampshire (073 583308). Hacking in the forest £6.25 per hour.

The Forestry Commission publishes a series of maps, *See your forests*, which indicate which forests have bridle routes. These include Queen Elizabeth country park, Hampshire (six miles of horse riding trails, and rides along the South Downs Way); Alice Holt, Hampshire (ancient royal hunting forest including the historic Waterloo Oaks planted at Nelson's request to build ships for the navy); Dean Forest Park (Gloucestershire), Chiltern (Buckinghamshire), Shipbourne (Kent), Wymerley (Northampton), Croxall (North Yorkshire). Trails for riders are usually marked by colour marker posts. For a permit, contact the forester in charge (via park centres). Full details on maps from Forestry Commission, 231 Corporation Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT. Permits for Bramshill Common cost £14 from Forestry Commission Office, Bucks Horn Oak, Farnham, Surrey.

مكتبة الأمل

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

First Leisure comes to expectant market

Lord Delfont, the impresario who at 74 clearly knows the secret of everlasting youth, is bringing First Leisure Corporation to the stock market just 18 months after he organized the buy-out of the business from Trusthouse Forte, and several years before even he expected the shares to have a full listing. First Leisure is a unique investment vehicle in this country (there is no second leisure) and if that were not enough to guarantee the success of the issue, the market seems that an exciting deal is in the offing (the market is not wrong). With ill-concealed enthusiasm, Lord Delfont explains that he can't say anything. "If I did, it would have to go into the prospectus". Discussions have taken place with a US holiday firm (not the big deal) and with his contacts throughout the show-business world, offers pour in daily.



Lord Delfont: ill-concealed enthusiasm.

In the here and now, according to Mr James Naylor, managing director of the piers, entertainment and leisure division, "most of the businesses are running very efficiently and we will have another good year, I'm sure. To expand we knew we had to get our gearing down and be able to trade our stock".

First Leisure is thus raising money: £10.8m from the offer for sale through Cazenove and Hill Samuel of six million new £1 shares. Shareholders including London Merchant Securities, Trusthouse Forte, Anglia Television and Investors in Industry who backed Lord Delfont at the time of the buyout at £1 per share, are already looking at a profit. Wisely they are not taking it. The market is suggesting the shares will start handsomely above the offer price of 180p a share in early dealings, to 210p or even 225p. At the offer price First Leisure has a stock market capitalization of £44m. Dealings begin on Thursday week.

The sale proceeds of the offer will be used initially to reduce borrowings. As a result First Leisure will be virtually unencumbered, with net asset backing of 150p a share, a capability to borrow around £20m and £8.5 million, authorized but unissued shares worth a further £15m at the offer price.

Lord Delfont not making a profits forecast with the issue because the larger part of the group's profits comes in the second half of the financial year which finishes at the end of October. The first half year finishes just a fortnight after the company is floated.

Last year the group made a pretax profit of £4.49m after an interest charge of £1.95m. At the trading level profits jumped from £4.3m to £7.2m on a turnover which had risen from £36.4m to £41.9m. The aggregates disguise the fact that profits from live entertainment, mainly from two London theatres, have more than halved over five years to £163,000. The profits growth, has come from piers entertainment and leisure centres which have benefited from a strict approach to staffing particularly at the Blackpool Tower.

Success will also mean wealth for the directors who have been given the chance to buy 250,000 shares at £1 each, providing the stock market price reaches certain targets. Over the period to the end of March 1989, the targets range from 160p to 475p. John Tomlin, Mr Naylor, Mr Richard Mills and Mr Richard Watt, thus have every incentive to justify the faith the market has in them.

At the offer price, First Leisure is on a fairly undemanding 15 times earnings. The board has promised to pay a net total dividend of 6p, giving the shares a prospective gross yield of 4.8 per cent. They will be in great demand.

Inscrutable logic of Jardine

To readers of the James Clavell novels, *Tai-pan* and *Noble House*, this week's developments in Hongkong will have a familiar ring. Jardine, Matheson, the oldest Hong of them all, surrounded by swirling legends of Chinese opium smuggling and the backdoor deals which gave the island to the British Government, admitted that its profits had fallen by 80 per cent last year. Then, in the type of tactical somersault which punctuates the Clavell novels, the new tai-pan Mr Simon Keswick, announced that shares in Jardine, Matheson would be exchanged for shares in a new parent company based in Bermuda.

The shock could hardly have been greater. Mr Keswick tried to suggest that nothing much had happened. No one really believed him. Other business leaders on the island have been torn between swallowing their anger at being outwitted, and denouncing Jardine, Matheson as no longer anything like the power it used to be. But in the past two days the company's shares have tumbled by 23p to 90p and the stock market's Hang Seng index has slipped and slithered by 104.47 to 1,014.38. The only real surprise is that it is still above 1,000.

The Bermudan ploy and its reception amount to another few pieces in the mosaic which has been falling into place since the Chinese communists said that they wanted to reclaim Hongkong and the New Territories by the time the British lease on the New Territories expires in 1997 - a lease which the Chinese have never recognised anyway. Every shred of news has been minutely examined, particularly by the Hongkong Chinese, in a search for clues to the outcome. Given Jardine's connections at the highest level, Mr Keswick's move can only be ominous for those who remain. It is no coincidence that Bermuda is identical to Hongkong in so many respects - offshore island, British tradition, English language, warm climate, pro-capitalist. The difference is that it lies off the US.

March money rush after Budget boost

Corporate treasurers find it hard to resist the opportunity to raise cheap finance afforded by booming share prices, nor are the issuing houses slow to hasten newcomers to the market in these conditions. During March, equities have regularly been hitting new peaks, basking in the euphoria induced by the Budget and falls in domestic interest rates.

Conditions for capital raising could scarcely have been more favourable and the new issue statistics compiled by the merchant bankers Samuel Montagu fully bear this out. A total of £778m of new money was raised during the month through equity and bond issues, well up on the February figure of £550m and the highest monthly figure since June 1981.

Rights issues picked up smartly, although Exco International and Bowater between them accounted for a sizable slice of the £194m raised. Activity in the new issues market has also been at a high level. Ten new companies came to the market and there were also newcomers to the Unlisted Securities Market.

Any sign of increased activity on the capital markets will, however be welcomed by a government keen to encourage switching from the banking system to assist monetary control. And the Budget certainly sought to encourage this with several measures which will have the effect of making bank finance less attractive compared with the capital markets.

Francis Industries, under assault from Mr David Abell's Suter, has cleverly given shareholders a powerful message about future profitability with the full year results but kept the formal profits forecast for the defence document.

Mr D. "Sandy" Saunders, in his statement that he expected to see profits reach a new record in 1984. "The highest profits ever achieved were those for 1979 (£1,924,480)". The City now expects the profits forecast in the defence document to be more than £2m. Profits last year were more than £1.5m against £1.1m.

Francis predicts record profits

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Broken Hill profits soar to £212m

Better demand and rationalization has helped to turn round the loss-making steel division of Broken Hill Proprietary, Australia's largest public company, in the first nine months to February 29, 1984. Results reported yesterday show pretax profits for the last three months almost quadrupled to \$A317.3m (£212m), against \$A57.3m (£37m) for the first nine months of 1983.

The company, which has been under assault from Mr Robert Holmes à Court, the Australian financier, says the 1983 period was affected by "abnormal retrenchment payments and plant write-offs, which have helped profits this time."

In brief

- SILKOLINE LUBRICANTS:** In 1983, turnover of Silkoline Lubricants expanded by 31 per cent to £20.2m. Sales volumes increased by 38 per cent. But, the board reports, prices suffered because of intense competition arising from the continuing surplus of oil products. As a result, pretax profits only edged forward, from £1m to £1.01m. The total net dividend is being lifted from 7p to 8p a share. However, the board is confident that 1984's pretax profits will top 1983's.
- UNIBOND (HOLDINGS):** Profits for 1983, before tax, goodwill

Shipowners join unions in fight for tax exemptions

By Wayne Lintott

The first shots were fired yesterday in a major parliamentary and media lobbying campaign to exempt shipping and seamen from Budget plans to end capital allowances and tax concessions.

Mr Richard Tooke, president of the General Council of British Shipping, said the Budget move gave the impression the Government did not "give a damn about shipping."

He said in a speech to the Liverpool Steam Ship Owners' Association that shipping would be badly hit. He added: "It has always been recognized that shipping is a highly cyclical industry where a long series of lean years may suddenly be interspersed with a bumper one."

Before the Budget, the council had been pressing the Government to introduce mea-

sures to even out cyclical effects, extend capital allowances to second-hand ships and include larger shipbuilding ports in new enterprise zones.

None of the requests were granted and Mr Tooke said: "Suddenly, at a stroke, our advantages have been withdrawn. Indeed, while land-based industry continues to get a number of advantages such as regional aid, help for setting up in enterprise zones, the Business Expansion Scheme and special industry aid of one kind or another, shipping is now to get nothing."

He continued: "We go from 100 per cent free depreciation to nil capital allowances within three years. Admittedly, corporation tax is reduced, over the same period from 52 to 33 per cent but that still does not alter the fact that investment in shipping will be very badly hit."



Richard Tooke: forecast of stormy weather

Under the old system, ships could depreciate the whole 100 per cent in the first year or at will thereafter, while the rest of industry depreciated under a reduced rate of 25 per cent. This enabled the industry to remain competitive with Britain's main European partners,

excluding Norway. Many within the industry considered that advantage almost wholly responsible for new capital investment.

In a rare show of unanimity, Mr Tooke and the employers joined with the National Union of Seamen and the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association in attacking the Chancellor's removal of tax relief for seafarers who spent more than 30 days abroad, often in short spells, and the officers and ratings who spend months continually abroad on their ships.

"The Chancellor exempts the businessman who is abroad for 366 days. Surely, the seafarer deserves some recognition," Mr Tooke said, explaining that at the moment the Budget would cost the average rating £10 per week in lost earnings and the officers £14 a week and more.

BICC in metals merger

By Andrew Cornelius

The rationalization of Britain's troubled engineering industries continued yesterday with news of a merger of the copper and aluminium businesses of BICC, the cables and engineering group, and Johnson & Firth Brown, the Sheffield engineers.

Two new companies will be established to combine the businesses. Thomas Bolton & Johnson will employ 900 people on existing sites at Froggall in Staffordshire and Wakefield in West Yorkshire, and have an annual turnover of about £55m.

The merger will mean the loss of about 100 jobs at J&F's site at Wakefield, but will protect the jobs of another 200 workers there. "Without the deal all 300 jobs were at risk", Mr George Hardie, finance director of J&F said.

The new company will be jointly owned by BICC and J&F and will be a significant force in the British market for copper wire for the automotive and electrical industries.

A second company in Prescott, Merseyside, Prescott Aluminium Company, will combine the aluminium (overhead wire) cable businesses and will be 80 per cent owned by BICC and 20 per cent by J&F.

Both new companies are expected to make profits from their first day in business. In a separate rationalization move, BTR, the industrial holdings conglomerate, and IMI, the metals group, decided to merge their vehicle radiator service and distribution businesses.

A new parent company, International Radiator Services, will take over the Serck Services International and the IMI Marston Radiator Services businesses, to form a new company with about 140 branches throughout the country, employing 1,800 people.

State shipyard costs up despite selloff

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

Britain's nationalized shipbuilding industry will again draw heavily on Government funds in the coming financial year, despite the fact that its biggest loss-making yard, Scott Lithgow, has now been sold to the private sector.

The Department of Trade and Industry yesterday announced a new external financing limit of £217m for British Shipbuilders in the coming financial year. This represents public money, the corporation expects to need to cover trading losses, redundancy costs and capital investment over the next 12 months.

The figure is £42m higher than the provisional estimate in last month's Government public spending plans. It comes only three days after the Government announced that British shipbuilders' external financing limit for the current financial year (which ends tomorrow) had been increased from £158m to a record £268m.

Of that extra £110m, £88m was accounted for by write-offs resulting from this week's sale of Scott Lithgow to Trafalgar House, and £22m to cover the effects of the continuing world recession in merchant shipbuilding.

The latest figures for the new financial year imply that British Shipbuilders will make another substantial loss in the year to come, although Mr Graham Day, the chairman, expects the loss will be smaller than the £120m estimated for the current year. The corporation lost £117m in 1982-83, £66m of which was incurred by the Scott Lithgow yard alone.

For the first time the Government has set separate financing limits for the naval and merchant shipbuilding divisions, reflecting the repeated intention to return the profitable warship yards to the private sector.

The three warship companies in line for sale, Vickers, Yarrow and Vosper, were nationalized in 1977. They made a combined profit of £55m in 1982-83.

Reuters will raise £325m

Early price indications of the stock market flotation of Reuters suggest that 32.5 per cent of the share capital will go on offer to the public, raising £325m for the owners of this newswire and business information group.

But the banks advising Reuters are still unsure of whether the issue will be a straightforward offer for sale or will be completed by tender.

seeking the highest price from investors.

It is now clear that some important British financial institutions will be absent from the underwriting. A boycott has been imposed because large insurance companies and pension funds dislike multi-vote share structures. Reuters has opted for such a structure to ensure its independence.

An early estimate of an offer price is 250p per share.

BT down £77m in first half

By Our Financial Correspondent

British Telecom, which is heading for sale to the private sector later this year, yesterday produced delayed profit figures for the six months to last September, showing a £77m drop in profits from £539m to £462m.

Sir George Jefferson, the corporation's chairman, said, however, that he expected the figures for the second half of the present financial year to be higher. This implies that the full-year results, due in July and the last figures before the planned flotation date of October, will be close to the £1,031m historic cost profit which BT made in 1982-83.

Yesterday's interim figures were produced after further changes in BT's accounting policies. The corporation has switched back from current cost to historic cost accounting, and has also written off £93.3m against its reserves to take account of its decision to depreciate its transmission and exchange equipment more quickly than before.

It was discussion of these changes which delayed the figures by two months. They have been approved by the auditors, Coopers & Lybrand, and are designed to settle the corporation's accounting methods in good time for the flotation.

The figures confirm that, after BP and Shell, BT will be the most profitable company on the stock market.

Sir George said further price increases were possible, but not before November.

Pound slips to \$1.4425

Sterling's trade-weighted value against a basket of currencies fell to the lowest for a year yesterday, closing 0.3 down at 80.1. Dealers reported some commercial selling of sterling and with the dollar firming slightly in this pre-weekend trading, the pound lost half a cent to \$1.4425. Against the Deutsche mark it eased 1.75 pence to DM3.7375.

The dollar was helped by short-covering and nervousness over Argentina's debts. It closed one-third of a penny up at DM 2.5890.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1112.5 down 1.1, day's high: 1114.4, low: 1110.1
FT Index: 877.0 down 4.8
FT Gilts: 83.19 down 0.06
Bargains: 26,420
Datastream US30 Leaders Index: 113.8 up 0.1
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1167.92 down 2.88
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10,929.17 up 127.62
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 1014.38 down 42.71
Amsterdam: 173.7 up 0.6
Sydney: AO Index: 750.5 up 5.4
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 1022.3 up 1.7
Brussels: General Index: 146.78 up 0.03
Paris: CAC Index: 163.7 up 0.1
Zurich: SKA General: 308.40 up 1.0

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4425 down 1/2 cent
Index 80.1 down 0.3
DM 3.7375 down 0.0175
FF 11.5050 down 0.0550
Yen 324.0 down 0.75
Dollar Index 126.3 up 0.3
DM 2.5890 up 0.0033
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4365
Dollar DM 2.5997
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.597645
SDR £0.735286

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 8%
Finance houses base rate 9%
Discount market loans week fixed 8%
3 month interbank 9-9 1/2%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10 1/2-10 3/4%
3 month DM 6 1/2-6 3/4%
3 month FF 14 1/4-14 1/2%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.50
Fed funds 10 1/2%
Treasury long bond 9 5/8-9 5/4%
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period February 8, 1984 to March 8, 1984 inclusive: 9.373 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$388.50 pm \$388.50
close \$388.50 (\$299-269.50)
New York (latest): \$387.25
Kruggerand (per cent):
\$395.50-401 (\$277-278)
Sovereigns (new):
\$315.00-325.00 (\$263.50-64.25)
Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Central TV forms film subsidiary

Central Independent Television has become the first of the independent television contractors to set up its own production company called Zenith to make films for sale to a wider market.

Mr Bob Phillips, Central's managing director, yesterday said the television companies made programmes but only sold air space. He believes that future revenue must be derived from selling more programmes such as Central's Kennedy series to other channels, especially in the US.

Zenith has about 10 projects in the pipeline with the first sales expected in June.

● Continental Illinois is realizing \$1.76m with the sale of its \$8.26m credit card business to Chemical Bank of New York. The deal will leave Chemical with about 2 million cardholders in 30 states in the US.

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

US bid talk lifts Commercial Union

By Derek Pain

Shares of Commercial Union, the insurance group weighed down by its troubled United States offshoot, raced ahead again yesterday as rumours multiplied that a bid was about to be mounted - or that at the very least its US insurance business would be sold.

Speculation was intensified by the apparent interest of Mr Ivan Boesky, the American arbitrator who took a vital 5 per cent (£50m) stake in Eagle Star Holdings when it was the subject of competing bids from Allianz Versicherungs, the West German insurer, and BAT Industries, the tobacco group which eventually won control of Eagle.

Mr Boesky said yesterday that he was watching the CU situation closely. "But I am not at the centre of the activity."

Speaking for CU Mr George Spratt, the company secretary, said: "We are not party to

think we will have to wait until Monday until we can feel comfortable."

Other oil stocks closed on a mixed note although LASMO continued to move ahead. Bermah Oil was up 3p to 190p.

The shares were up 32p at one time yesterday. They closed at 224p - a two-day gain of 36p. Other insurances joined in the fun, with Phoenix, reporting results on Monday, rising 12p to 437p.

Generally shares ended the first leg of the account on a subdued note although, in light trading, prices were off the floor at the close. The FT 30 share index was down 6.2 points at mid-day but the closing index was off 4.8 points at 877.0.

Banks were again firm, helped along by the accountants' change of heart over tax payments. Lloyds, for example, was 17p higher at 473p.

Government stocks were little changed. There was a tendency to recover early falls of up to 1½% Golds were a few cents down as the US dollar progressed against most currencies, including sterling. Elsewhere, Bowater, the star of the week, had to contend with profit-taking, falling 4p to 238p.

More trouble at Tisbury Brewery, the Wiltshire company floated in the City on the tide of traditional ale five years ago. The company, which has never made a profit, is calling an "informal" meeting of shareholders next week to discuss the latest twists and turns in its tortuous career. It seems that problems have arisen with Canonbury Wines, a drinks distributor which owns 22 per cent of Tisbury and was thought to represent the company's saviour. Tisbury's shares are traded occasionally under the 1973 facility. The last price was 97p.

anything," he said that there was no evidence of any significant change in the top 50 CU shareholders over the past six or seven months. "It would cost about £50m for someone to build a 5 per cent stake and about £150m to build a 14.9 per cent stake," he said. "But I

confirmation of the Budget decision to make life tougher - or at least marginally less profitable - for the casino companies depressed Pleasurema, which now embraces the Associated Leisure amusement machine groups. The shares fell

5p to 388p - a new low for the year.

A newcomer, North Sea Oil and General Trust, made a sobering debut after all the recent high flying activities of Robertson Research and Connells. The shares, offered, at 125p, opened at 110p. Ten million were sold and the flotation was just oversubscribed. But Robertson, although hit by the inevitable

Kennedy Brookes, the fast growing restaurant chain developed by Mr Michael Golder and Mr Roy Ackerman, is planning to franchise its two most famous names - Mario and Franco and Wheelers. The idea is that Kennedy's will continue to operate the London outlets but offer franchise deals in towns with a 100,000-plus population. Kennedy's shares were unchanged at 238p yesterday.

profit-taking after Thursday's spectacular launch, continued buoyant. More than 123 times oversubscribed at the 160p offer price, the shares were 247p yesterday, down 15p on the day.

Connells, offered at 120p, slipped 3p to 143p. Elsewhere, Trusthouse Forte, which is not planning a bid for the hotel arm of the troubled Spanish Rumasa group, was a few pence lower at 275p.

Other hotel shares, however, were firm, with De Vere Hotels and Restaurants - where the chairman and controlling shareholder, Mr Leopold Muller, has made it clear he would be receptive to a realistic offer - up another 2p at 110p. De Vere nearly arrived at the alter last year but the deal, with Mr Gerald Holland, was not finalized.

Dalgety, the sprawling international food group, is winning more and more City support. Mr David Shaw at De Zoete and Bevan, the stockbrokers, may revise his profits projection upwards from £64m to £66m (£48m), and suggests the shares, up 20p at 470p, remain a buy, particularly for income funds.

Istock Johnson, brickmakers, failed to respond to talk of £11m profits and slipped 3p to 211p. Courtals, with suggestions of £115m profits in the air, were another casualty, easing 2p to 148p.

French Connection, a recent USM addition, fell 15p to 300p ahead of figures due next week. Hongkong shares continued to suffer from the Jardine Matheson decision to move house to Bermuda. There was an array of minus signs throughout the Hongkong list. And Cable and Wireless, which has close links with the colony, was clipped 12p to 353p.

Among Australian issues, Broken Hill Proprietary rose 28p to 930p after the results.

New lows for the year were reached by Biomechanics and A.Caird. Besides CU, others attaining new highs included Reckitt and Colman and Croda International.

The number of Stock Exchange bargains on Thursday was 24,032, valued at £313,704m. Gilt bargains were 3,389. The number of British and Irish shares traded was 167.4 million.

MONEY MARKETS

Bank of England help yesterday was again in excess of £1 billion. For the week as a whole, the authorities have channelled more than £4 billion into the market through various routes.

Yesterday's assistance, at £1,112m, the highest of the week, came on a shortage that increased from £900m to £1 billion, enabled the market to pick up some relatively cheap money at the end of a difficult week.

Most houses took final balances within bounds of 5 per cent and 7 per cent having paid up to 8½ per cent in the early stages.

The day's shortage had been swollen by the unwinding of the temporary facility with banks which came into effect on March 2, and which involved gilt "repos" totalling about £668m.

This was included in the figure of £1,548m, given for maturing assistance and take-up of Treasury Bills.

Other adverse factors cited by the Bank at the outset were bill repurchases of £167m, a £200m rise in note circulation, and banks balance about £100m below target overnight.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling closed a depressing week at its lowest trade weighted value for a year on 80.1, down 0.3 on the day and the week. It lost ½ a cent on the dollar at 1.4425 after dipping to 1.4380 near lunchtime, and weakened further against Continentals.

Dealers said there were no signs of the Bank of England's intervention. The pound lost 4 pence on the week, against the mark, and about 13 centimes against French francs - testing a low of 11½ francs during the afternoon. It slipped 1½ pence against the mark at 3.7375, fell 5½ centimes against French francs at 11.5050, lost ½ of a centime on Swiss francs at 3.1090 and ½ of a yen at 324.

TEMPUS

Tidying Telecom for the big sale

With privatization looming on the horizon, British Telecom needed desperately to bring some kind of order to its chaotic balance sheet. But having delayed its interim results so that the vital repairs could be carried out, the end product still leaves much to be desired.

The biggest problems relating to plant and equipment have been solved at a single gigantic stroke of £933m, which has been conveniently written off directly to reserves. This figure includes additional depreciation of £584m, needed to reflect shortened lives of a substantial proportion of BT's assets.

The approach contravenes standard accounting practice, which requires the adjustment to go through the profit and loss account. The auditors agreed, however, to the departure from the standard since compliance would have been misleading. Compliance would have also wiped out BT's retained profit for the period.

After all, the problems that BT has had with keeping the accounting records of its assets, which pose real problems over their true worth, the hope must now be that it has got its sums right. Total fixed assets of nearly £2.5 billion were recorded in the balance sheet at the interim date of September 30, 1983, which happens to equate to the rumoured market capitalization on privatization.

One balance sheet problem which has still to be sorted out is the question of the £1.25 billion long-term liability relating to a deficiency on the pension fund. The Government has agreed to remove this clumsy scar from the balance sheet but it is unclear whether BT will still have to meet the resulting liability. The difficulty needs to be resolved swiftly. BT also has an uncomfortable deferred tax liability of £2.65 billion, for which no provision has yet been made.

BT's profit and loss account has a pre-privatization gloss about it now that the supplementary depreciation charge has been abandoned. It is heading for £1 billion net profit for the year, which on market capitalization of £8 billion puts the p/e ratio at eight.

One worrying aspect of the profit and loss account is the 20 per cent increase in other operating charges - in effect, everything other than staff costs and depreciation. Turnover has increased by only 7 per cent, and if this disparity was to continue, bearing in mind the suggested pricing policy for BT of RPI minus x, it could pose longer term problems, particularly in times of low inflation. BT is generating cash, it needs to embark on a heavy investment programme, which will be a drain on resources and a obstacle to generous dividend payments. It is difficult to see how it will become self-financing. Yet there is still a lot of productivity to be gained out of BT, and with its prized international network still booming, the path for growth could still be clear.

Leyland Paints
When the suitor who has been wooing you walks away there is no hope for a conventional rights issue. The course of action open are rather limited. But given friends in high places, an accommodating

bank manager and new management with some plausible plans for the future prospects can still be pulled out of the fire. Thus yesterday we saw much troubled Leyland Paints get a much needed equity subscription to raise £1.7m which should keep the creditors from the door.

The deal means that investing institutions will end up with 37 per cent of the equity - a stake they believe worthwhile. This life-saver came about because Mr Gerry Thomas of Hambros Banks is on the Leyland board and he was able to persuade the bank to lead the seven institutions which are investing. They are subscribing at 18p per share, a price which caused a little difficulty because rumours of a new bidder last week pushed the price up to 27p at one stage. But there was no bidder, merely ill-informed speculation in a tip sheet. And anyway, with the results announced yesterday showing a loss of £1.4m against nearly £3m last time, Leyland would have been pushed to get a bid at a realistic price.

The £1.55m net which will be raised is very definitely to reorganize Leyland's balance sheet. National Westminster has seen the books and the plans and given its blessing. The results yesterday show a reserve of £5.2m after £6m written off - with such figures it does not take long to work out how long the group would last without action.

Pifco
Pifco, manufacturer of branded electrical household goods and personal care appliances like hairdriers, yesterday lifted the veil a little on the jungle warfare behind the scenes of the consumer boom.

In a drop in half-year pre-tax profits from £541,000 to £501,000 results from the erratic pattern of sales, and this looks to stem from retailers' caprice towards suppliers during a time when the buyer is king.

Pifco has clearly been running very hard indeed to slide behind just a fraction, during excessively fierce competition. Nor does it look as if the second half, which encompasses the Christmas trading period, will produce any fireworks in profit terms. Expectations that turnover has remained mercurial should prove well founded.

But Pifco is a cautious well-bred company, controlled by the Webber family. A rise in investment income during the first six months of £4,000 to £269,000, or £60,000 above the interim trading profits, emphasizes just how secure the financial base has remained. Pifco has had no trouble in paying an unchanged dividend of 1.76p. The shares rose 10p to 185p on the results.

The solidity of the family shareholding, plus the strong financial base, derive perhaps from a reaction to the tussle with competition. Pifco counters in the market place. BT, and with its prized international network still booming, the path for growth could still be clear.

But the group apparently has no plans to bring the logic of this move to its ultimate conclusion, by scrapping its quotation.

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Alliance Building Society



"Record growth, record lending"

Highlights from the speech by Mr C. J. Baker, LL.B., B.Sc.(Econ.), F.I.A., A.C.I.I., Chairman, at the Society's Annual General Meeting on 30th March 1984.

★ Alliance assets grew by a record £423 million during 1983 and general reserves increased from 3.83% to 4.06% of assets.

★ A record £666 million was lent to 31,820 borrowers in 1983. The number of Alliance investors increased by 53,000 and the total number now approaches 900,000.

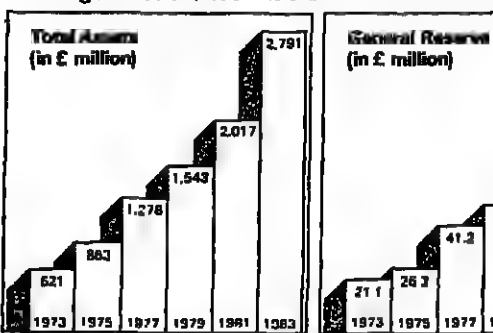
★ The demand for mortgage loans was strong throughout 1983 and competition for investors' funds was even more intense than in the previous year.

★ But for the arbitrary decision by the Inland Revenue to tax at the full corporation tax rate the profits of building societies from investing in Government securities, the recent mortgage rate reduction would have been 1% instead of 1%, according to the Chairman of the Building Societies Association.

★ The most exciting development by building societies recently has been Alliance BankSave, a joint scheme with the Bank of Scotland. Of the links offered by societies it is the only one to provide a building society interest-earning account with automatic transfer of funds to a bank current account.

★ In 1983 the Society made funds available to housing associations, particularly for 'starter homes' and purpose-built accommodation for the elderly, and also assisted in the maintenance of the existing housing stock by lending over £50 million for repairs and improvements.

★ The Alliance welcomes the final report of the Building Societies Association on new legislation for building societies. It emphasises that societies do not wish to depart from being housing finance and savings institutions and that any additional powers should be incidental to these primary objectives and enhance their achievement.



For copies of the Report and Accounts and details of the Society's savings and investment schemes, please contact any Alliance Branch or Agent, or Head Office, Alliance House, Hove Park, Hove, East Sussex BN3 7AE. Telephone Brighton (0273) 775454.

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Mr Edward J. Swan, a New York lawyer, was in London this week to talk to dozens of small investors who are taking on two of the biggest United States broking houses.

Mr Swan is involved in two quite separate cases - both of which will be familiar to *Family Money* readers. In the first, 87 British investors are suing Bache Halsey Stuart Shields for the £4.5m they lost two years ago in a complicated commodities investment plan called the Ginny Mae - T Bond spread promoted by Bache as a low risk investment scheme.

In the second case the *Coronation Street* actor, Mr Michael Goldie, is taking action against Merrill Lynch, the world's largest stockbroker. As reported in *The Times* last autumn, Mr Goldie lost in 11 months £70,000 in commodity futures dealings with Merrill's London office.

Both these actions are quite separate. But they have wide implications for other British investors who may have lost

sizeable sums with US broking houses in London.

Mr Swan says: "The type of US broker that sells small investors commodity futures may not be the sophisticated financial expert they may fondly imagine him to be. He is a salesman first and foremost. He makes his money probably entirely on commission which he may split with the firm. And he makes money regardless of whether the customer shows a profit or a loss."

A feature of the Goldie case was the amount of commission generated often in frenetic dealings. The commission schedules show that in the course of one day's trading commissions of more than £20,000 was paid out of the account. Total commissions over the year came to more than £80,000 - half of which was later returned to Mr Goldie's account with no explanation.

What those who have lost money with big American firms find hard to understand is how

FAMILY MONEY

Commodities

Futures victims fight back in US

this can happen to them at the hands of a well known international concern with a reputation at stake.

Mr Goldie claims he phoned up Merrill in the first place because he wanted a large reputable stockbroker to manage £70,000.

Mr Swan says: "One of the problems is there seems to be nothing in London comparable with the Commodity Exchange Act. And it was not clear whether British investors had any recourse to US law. As a result, things have been done to investors in Britain that would not have been done back home."

Since last November, however, things have changed a bit. A court ruling in a case against EF Hutton, another large US broker, established that overseas citizens could sue in the US courts. Up to that point Bache was trying to establish that the case was outside the US courts' jurisdiction.

It now emerges that so long as the dealings in question are

carried out through the US markets, British investors can challenge the brokers in American courts. Consequently, the Bache case (investors are suing for punitive damages on top of their losses) could start any time from May.

It is not a class action. The 87 investors are suing separately although the cases will be tried together. Mr Goldie is taking a different route. He is going through the New York Stock Exchange's arbitration procedure, a simpler and cheaper alternative.

What is abundantly clear is that the Bache investors and Mr Goldie are by no means the only Britons who have lost money with American brokers in London. One Essex farmer recently settled a claim against a big US broking house out of court. Inquiries by solicitors in the past six months, since we wrote about Mr Goldie, indicate that several other individuals are thinking of taking action. The way now looks clear.

But prevention is better than cure and until Mr Swan has achieved the victory investors hope for in the US courts there is little chance that the authorities in this country will feel moved to regulate more effectively the commodity markets.

Mr Swan thinks investors should be quite clear about what they are doing and signing before they hand over any money to a US broker, or indeed anybody else, offering a commodities future investment. "Under the US Government rules you will be asked to sign something called a Risk Disclosure Statement and don't let anyone tell you this is mere formality. It is never a formality. It is a US Government requirement that investors are told fully about the degree of risk they are taking before they commit themselves. Frankly, if more people read it properly there would be fewer investors in commodities futures."

Margaret Drummond

Inland Revenue

Tax payments guide to maintenance

For a divorced or separated woman, or an unmarried mother, the tax position regarding maintenance is a potential minefield. There are four possible ways in which the maintenance she receives may be taxed. It is assumed throughout this article that the man is the payer and the woman the payee, but the same rules apply if the roles are reversed.

Voluntary Payments
Where there is no court order or signed agreement, the woman is not liable for tax on her maintenance payments, and the man cannot claim tax relief on the money he pays.

"Small" Payments
If there is a court order, and the payments are not above £33 a week (£143 a month) for the woman, or £18 a week (£78 a month) for each child, the man pays the full amount, but can claim tax relief on the payments. The mother is liable for tax on the full amount she receives.

"Large" Payments
Payments higher than the above limits, or payments at any level under a signed agreement made out of court, are treated differently. The man deducts the tax at the basic rate before payment, and gives the woman a Certificate (R.185) to prove that he has done this. The woman then has no more basic rate tax to pay on the net amount. The final effect is therefore the same as with "small" payments, but the Inland Revenue is saved the work of collecting the tax due from the woman, and arranging the corresponding relief for the man.

However, if the woman has no other income, she probably isn't a taxpayer. She would be able to set her personal allowances against the maintenance and so should not have been liable for tax anyway on most, or all, of the maintenance she receives. In this case, she has to claim back from the Inland Revenue the tax deducted by the man by completing a Form

R.249 at regular intervals, and enclosing the R.185's.

These distinctions cause considerable confusion. First, a woman who has been receiving voluntary maintenance, and who decides to put the arrangement on to a more formal footing by means of a court order or enforceable agreement, must be careful to get the amount increased to compensate for the shift in the tax burden from her ex-husband to herself, or else she should ensure the order reads "A shall pay to B such an amount as after tax shall leave her..."

Secondly, where a working woman has a court order, and is meant to be receiving a "small" maintenance payment, her tax coding will be altered to collect from her earnings the tax due on her maintenance. But if the man only makes payments sporadically, or not at all, she suffers doubly because the Inland Revenue will still be collecting tax on maintenance she is not receiving.

Tax offices are often uncooperative in redressing this: when the woman asks for her coding to be altered, her tax office may insist on writing to her ex-husband's tax office which in turn contacts him to confirm whether the payments are in arrears.

He, of course, may be a long time in replying, especially if he is claiming relief on payments he is not making. Worse still, some tax offices take the view that it is appropriate to continue taxing her, even when the maintenance is not arriving, since (in theory) she can go back to court at a future date and enforce payment of the arrears, which would then escape tax if her coding had been altered upwards.

Thirdly, where a non-working woman is receiving a "large" maintenance payment, there can often be delays of some months in reclaiming from the Inland Revenue the basic-rate tax which the man deducted. An even worse problem

occurs when because of personal bitterness, or simply inefficiency, the man does not supply the R.185 forms regularly with the maintenance payment. Although he has a statutory duty to do so, most ex-wives are understandably reluctant to go through the nightmare of court proceedings to enforce this. Nevertheless, the tax cannot be reclaimed without the R.185.

A further point causing confusion is that where a court orders a certain amount to be paid for the mother, and a certain amount for each child, each of these amounts is treated as a separate maintenance payment for tax purposes. So it is possible (and quite common) to have the ludicrous situation whereby part of the maintenance the woman receives is classed as large (and has tax deducted at source) and the rest is small (and therefore still has tax to be paid on it).

Furthermore, if the man in this example gives an additional voluntary amount (for instance, to compensate for inflation since the order was made) then the total maintenance she

receives is separated into three distinct components by the tax office, each of which is treated in a different way.

The National Council for One Parent Families has been attempting for some years to persuade the Government to simplify this system, but so far no proposals for change have been forthcoming from the Treasury. When the Green Paper on the Taxation of Husband & Wife was published in December 1980 the issue was disappointingly given no mention.

Payments to Children

However, there is one respect in which the rules do provide an opportunity to reduce the separated couple's joint tax bill, and this is the fourth category of maintenance referred to earlier. Where maintenance is ordered by a court to be paid to the children of the relationship, rather than to the mother for the children, it is treated as the children's income, and their own Single Person's Allowances (£1,785 each in 1983/4) become available to set against the maintenance.

The mother acts as agent on the children's behalf, and it is not necessary for the money to be paid into a special bank account or trust fund in the children's names. In this way, the mother pays no tax, but the father can still claim tax relief.

Within this category, there is still a distinction between payments above £33 a week (which should have tax deducted before payment) and those below, which are paid gross. But most maintenance paid in this way is below £33 by nature, because otherwise it would be likely to exceed the Single Person's Allowance of £1,785 a year, when the children themselves would start to incur tax.

It should be noted that this advantage can only be gained through a court order. A signed agreement for maintenance direct to children does not have the right effect because it is caught under the Section 437 provisions, which say that a "settlement" on a child is treated as the income of the payer rather than the child.

Brian Dodgeon

Edinburgh Fund Managers plc

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RESULTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 1984

	1984	1983
Profits before Tax	£2.46m	£0.82m
Earnings per Share	8.32p	2.67p
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Guidelines in doubt

New research casts doubt on the use by industrial tribunals of 1980 guidelines from the Government Actuary on calculating compensation for loss of pension in unfair dismissal cases. For example, the Industrial Relations Legal Information Bulletin says: "The guidelines may lead to lower compensation than an actuarial assessment based on an employee's final salary."

Assessing pension loss continues to baffle both lawyers and non-lawyers involved in unfair dismissal cases. The IRLIB not only analyses the pros and cons of the different methods, but also suggests solutions to some of the problems identified by its research. Information on the bulletin can be obtained from Joe O'Hara or Anthony Korn on 01-328 4751.

Lambeth cuts rate

Lambeth Building Society has announced that from Monday interest on its High Yield Shares is being reduced by 1.05 percentage points to 8.05 per cent, equivalent to 11.50 per cent gross. With interest added each half-year, the net rate increases to 8.21 per cent, equivalent to 11.7 per cent gross. The withdrawal rate is 28 days, with a minimum investment of £500 and a maximum of £50,000. Further details from Mr David Hayward, the general manager, on 01-928 1331.

Dollar gloom

Much of the funding of the United States budget deficit last year was foreign investment in the US. Mr Albert Loveless, of the stockbroker, Simon & Coates, argues in this month's edition of the *Kruggerand Bulletin* that during the present year this investment may not be so readily available, and a fall in the dollar, a rise in inflation and an increase in the price of gold are the likely results. Mr Loveless says: "This net inflow greatly eased economic pressures and allowed the US authorities to maintain an accommodative monetary and fiscal policy which boosted the economic recovery, with a blind eye turned to the fact that the financing of the US budget deficit has become increasingly subject to the whims of foreigners."

Property returns

Total returns (capital appreciation plus income) which can be anticipated from property are now more competitive with other investment media, believe Merchant Investors, the insurers. It says: "Against the increasingly favourable background, demand and supply in some property occupational markets, particularly in the south east, are moving towards equilibrium. This will boost the confidence of the institutional investors to allocate an increased proportion of their cash flow to property in anticipation of higher rates of rental growth."

Insurance figures

Insurance company actuaries have been busy since the Chancellor's bombshell dropped over tax relief and they have come up with some interesting figures. The removal of Life Assurance Premium Relief will have less effect on the longer term savings policies, according to UK Provident.

For example, the fall in yield from a 10-year with-profits endowment as a result of the removal of relief will be 2.8 per cent a year, 1.8 per cent on 15-year schemes, 1.3 per cent on 20-year plans falling to only 1 per cent on 25-year policies.

Guaranteed income

If you believe that interest rates will continue to fall in the longer term, locking yourself into a fixed return may not be a bad idea. British National Life is offering a five and a six year guaranteed income bond paying 8.5 per cent net of basic rate tax. If you do not want to commit yourself for such a long period there is a three-year bond paying 8.25 per cent.

The building societies are now paying 6.25 per cent on ordinary share accounts or 7.25 per cent on "extra interest" accounts so the BNLI offer is competitive. Details from British National Life Assurance Company Ltd, British National House, Harlands Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1TD. Tel: 0444 41411.



Mr and Mrs Kwok, celebrating their win with Mr Stirling Moss.

Wheels of fortune

Somebody does actually win the prize draws that are used to promote everything from American Express cards to Whitchurch magazine.

Mr Roger Kwok and his wife Amelia were presented yesterday with a Mercedes 190 by Mr Stirling Moss, the former racing driver, after winning the American Express "Member gets member" draw. Coincidentally, it was also the Kwoks' silver wedding anniversary.

To be eligible for the draw, American Express cardholders had to ask a friend or colleague to apply for a card. The prize draw incentive seems to work, as Amex signed up 2,500 new members as a result.

Rates cut

Trustee Savings Bank has come into line with other high street banks and reduced mortgage rates. TSB is now charging £140.50 a month to a borrower aged 30 on a £20,000 loan over 25 years, compared with £138.22 by National Westminster or £145.80 from a typical building society.

However, TSB also offers life insurance with its loans, the premium on which is included in monthly repayments. If you compare TSB with the others, including the life assurance, the sums look different.

TSB's monthly repayments are the same at £140.80 but NatWest charges £141.57 and a typical building society works out at £149.15.

Savings bonus

Whitchurch Securities is offering a new service to give a higher return on building society investments. The company has agreed with Abbey National that the 1 per cent commission Whitchurch receives on all investments placed with Abbey will be passed on to the clients of Whitchurch (less £2 to cover their costs). Whitchurch thus offers a better return than the smaller societies, with the added security of Abbey National.

The strings are that the minimum investment is £1,000 and, although the money can be invested in any Abbey account, it must be there for at least six months and the commission will be paid

after the six months have elapsed. It is a one-off payment, not payable every year. For details of the scheme ring Whitchurch Securities on 01-977 5854.

Society backing

A flutter on today's Grand National, with the help of a building society, must rank as one of the more bizarre offers that are increasingly being made in the competitive spirit now prevailing.

Members of the Nottingham Building Society Homelink electronic banking service can call up the odds for the race on their domestic television and transmit their bets to the central computer, where the stake money will automatically be debited from their account. Winnings (if any) will be credited in the same way.

'No loss' contract

Crusader Insurance has launched its "can't lose" contract covering both the possibility of death and the possibility of survival, called "The Executive Income Protection Plan". It is designed to protect a family's income needs for 10 years in the event of the death of the breadwinner.

If the policyholder survives the 10 years, the plan provides a guaranteed minimum cash, equal to the total premiums paid. Further information can be obtained from Douglas McDonald (Crusader) 070372 42424.

Insurance

Sun Life's tax relief blunder

It is difficult to imagine how some life assurance companies will survive the removal of tax relief, if current performance is anything to go by. Sun Life claims in its promotional literature: "Wealth Builder Plan builds your wealth fast. You enjoy a share in the profits of Sun Life Assurance and tax relief help from the Inland Revenue - who currently add £1.76 to every £10 you save."

This once-in-a-lifetime offer was sent to a reader of *The Times*, postmarked March 28 - two weeks after the Chancellor removed tax relief on life assurance premiums.

"PS. Remember to take advantage of this special offer - apply by March 31, 1984. If you have any queries, please telephone the Sun Life Service Line 0272 428481", says the Sun Life leader.

A telephone call elicited an apologetic response from the police salesgirl, who explained that the literature was now out of date. "We have had several calls about this", she volunteered.

The charitable explanation is that Sun Life had simply been inefficient. But how inefficient can you get?

LB

Savings certificates

Acceptable return in a period of lower inflation

As interest rates come down, so obtaining income from investments becomes a top priority. The curtain goes up next Thursday on the 27th issue of National Savings Certificates, which yield 7.25 per cent tax free over their five-year term. The return is lower than that on other recent issues but the certificates can still be used to provide an acceptable level of income in a period of lower inflation.

Maximum investment is again £5,000 per person, in £25 units. To get the best return the certificates should be held for the full five years, but for those who want to take out an annual income, the tables show two convenient plans by which this can be done.

Plan A gives an ascending scale of income and provides a slightly higher overall return than Plan B, where the annual income is more or less equalized. In both cases, the original capital is left intact at the end of five years.

Similar schemes can be operated on a pro-rata basis for smaller holdings. The system allows for partial encashment of multiple certificates, so there is

Harry Powell

Annual income schemes for 27th issue National Savings Certificates, leaving capital intact at the end of the five-year term.

PLAN A		
At end of	No of £25 units encashed	Encashment value
1st year	12	315.84
2nd year	12	335.52
3rd year	12	359.52
4th year	12	389.28
5th year	11	390.28
	59	£1,790.44
PLAN B		
1st year	13	342.16
2nd year	12	383.48
3rd year	12	359.52
4th year	11	356.84
5th year	10	354.60
	59	£1,778.60

In each case, a total of 59 units is encashed, leaving 141 units each worth £35.48 - a total of £5,002.68. Certificates are available in various denominations up to a total of 2000 units per person.

Life cover set to rise

Life assurance is going to cost more - and not just because tax relief on premiums has gone. The straightforward cover-type policies which provide a lump sum if you die within a specified period - term and convertible term - but nothing if you survive, have always been sold at lower rates as loss-leaders.

For example a 30-year-old can buy £100,000 worth of 15-year convertible term assurance for an annual premium of only £104 from Equitable Life, or £111 from Economic Insurance, two of the market leaders.

At these rates, the companies were probably breaking even if they were lucky - and making a loss, if the proposer had to have a medical (which would cost the company at least £30) before being accepted. The straightforward cover-type ones have the most direct appeal to the family person with dependants. But to encourage the salesmen to push them, the commissions on term and convertible term policies will have to go up.

Needless to say, these extra costs will not be coming out of the salaries of the senior executives - it will be the customers who will have to pay. So do not delay - your life assurance will almost certainly cost you more next year. LB

First National Securities Base rate

First National Securities Limited announces that with effect from 1st April 1984 its base rate for lending will be reduced to 9½%.

First National Securities Ltd., First National House, College Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 1FB. Telephone: 01-861 1313.

Societies guarantee is a key premium

Guaranteed differentials is the name of the game for building society investors, as interest rates come tumbling down and those dependent on building society interest find their income squeezed. Building societies' extra interest accounts are a popular choice for investors - but it is important to check on the guarantees when making your pick. All extra interest accounts pay a premium over the societies' ordinary share rate - now down to 6.25 per cent. But not all societies guarantee to maintain that differential. As rates come down a premium of, say, 1.0 per cent or 1.5 per cent becomes relatively more valuable.

Far from reducing differentials, one society, Cheltenham & Gloucester, has improved the terms on its Cheltenham Gold

account, increasing the differential over the ordinary share rate from 1.0 per cent to 1.25 per cent, giving a return of 7.5 per cent net of basic rate tax from April 1.

The only condition is that you must keep £1,000 or more in the account. If the balance falls below £1,000, you earn the ordinary interest rate of 6.25 per cent. There are no penalties on withdrawals.

One of the more attractive aspects of the premiums is that some of the societies offering the biggest guaranteed differentials pay a higher return on their ordinary share accounts too.

Societies with guaranteed differentials on their accounts include the Leamington Spa (1.15 on its Top Ten share), the Stafford Railway Building Society (1.75 per cent) and Chesham (1 per cent) on their

two-year term shares. On three-year investments the Nationwide, Cumberland, Dartington and Hemel Hempstead building societies are all offering guaranteed differential of 1.5 per cent.

Nationwide is paying 7.5 per cent on £1,000 invested in its Super Bonus account, the same as Cheltenham & Gloucester's Gold Account. LB

Like to have trebled your money over the last five years? GRE's top-performing Funds did.

Now you can invest £1,000 or more in a Fund that has more than trebled in the past five years. It's your opportunity to profit from expert investment management and really make your savings work for you.

WHY IS THE GRELLA EQUITY FUND SO SUCCESSFUL?

The answer lies in the GRE investment philosophy. First, we select a spread of UK Equities in the most attractive sectors of the market. Second, the performance of these Equities is regularly and rigorously monitored and acted upon where necessary. Emphasis is on well-managed companies with above-average prospects for growth.

The objective is to achieve steady growth in unit values over the medium to long term, balanced by the security of sound investment. Of course, past experience is not necessarily a guide to the future so the rate of growth of units cannot be forecast or guaranteed. Unit prices may go down as well as up, but over the medium to long term growth can reasonably be expected.

BETTER THAN A BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY

The beauty of GRE's Investment Bond is that your money is managed by GRE's professional investment team, and is spread across a wider selection of stocks and shares than an individual investor could normally

manage. And when you compare the results with other forms of investment, you'll see how much better off you would have been with GRE over the last five years. (See illustration on right)

CASHING YOUR BOND

You may cash your Bond at any time you wish, at the full bid price. Normally, payment will be made upon request.

YOU CAN WITHDRAW CASH REGULARLY

You may withdraw up to 5% per annum of your initial investment for up to 20 years - completely free of all forms of taxation at the time, including higher rate tax.

TAX EFFICIENT INVESTMENT

Investment Bond is highly tax efficient. You have no personal liability to basic rate tax or capital gains tax on any profit you make when you cash in the Bond. There may, however, be some liability to higher rate tax. You can, of course, cash the Bond at a time when your taxable income has been reduced, (on retirement, for example) and so reduce or even eliminate such a liability. The tax position is clearly described in our Investment Bond brochure which is available free on request. (Please telephone 01-200 0200 and ask for the GRE Investment Bond brochure or write using the FREEPOST address below).

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GRE's Investment Bond is a professional investment team, managed by GRE's professional investment team, and is spread across a wider selection of stocks and shares than an individual investor could normally

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GRELLA EQUITY FUND

The full value of your initial investment is guaranteed, should you die while the Bond is in force - even if the value of the units has dropped below your initial investment. The benefit payable on death is the greater of the bid value of the units at the date of death, and the Guaranteed Sum Assured. (This is equal to the initial investment amount - and reduces accordingly if there are cash withdrawals).

APPLY TODAY FOR YOUR INVESTMENT BOND

Please complete the application form below and post it together with your cheque to: GRE Linked Life Assurance Limited (LFLGD), FREEPOST, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire FY8 4BR. (No stamp needed.)

Units will be reserved for you on the day your cheque and completed application are received. You will receive immediate notification of the completion of your investment.

AN WORD ABOUT GRE

GRE is one of the largest insurance groups in the world. The head office is the well-known Royal Exchange building in the heart of the City of London, and the company is represented in more than 80 countries around the world. You'll find the people at GRE are friendly, reliable and positive. When you take out an Investment Bond, you are, in effect, employing their much-praised professional investment team to work on your behalf.

Investment Bonds are underwritten by GRE Linked Life Assurance Limited (GRELLA), the specialist unit-linked Life Assurance Company within the GRE group.

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You can check your unit prices daily in the press. Two prices are

To: GRE Linked Life Assurance Limited (LFLGD) FREEPOST, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire FY8 4BR. I enclose my cheque (made payable to 'GRE Linked Life Assurance Limited') (minimum £1,000) for investment in the GRELLA Equity Fund.

Sumname Mr/Mrs/Miss
Forenames
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My Broker's/Agent's name is (if applicable)
This offer is only available to persons resident in the UK and aged under 80.
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COMPARE THIS PERFORMANCE

The GRE group manages over £5,000 million of assets worldwide and has a remarkable record of success with its UK investment funds.

1. Tables published in the March 1984 edition of 'Money Management' magazine show that, of OVER FORTY similar funds investigated, the GRELLA Equity Fund came FIRST for five-year growth to 1984.

2. £5,000 invested in the Equity Fund in February 1979 had a cash-in value after 5 years of £15,962.

3. This is equivalent to an annual percentage growth rate of 26.1%, compound.

Five year growth record - Initial investment £5,000

£15,962

£8,265

£7,610

£7,275

HOW DOES THIS PERFORMANCE COMPARE WITH OTHER FORMS OF INVESTMENT AND DOES IT BEAT INFLATION?

This chart shows the amount that an initial investment of £5,000 made in February 1979 in the GRELLA Equity Fund would have grown to over five years.

The Building Society figure is based on paid-up share rates for lump sum investment actually paid from 23 February 1979. The Bank Deposit account figure is based on the interest rates typically paid from 23 February 1979 on deposit accounts. The Retail Price Index shows the amount to which your investment needed to grow to keep pace with inflation over the five years to January 1984. All the figures shown above are after tax for a basic rate taxpayer.

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities lose ground

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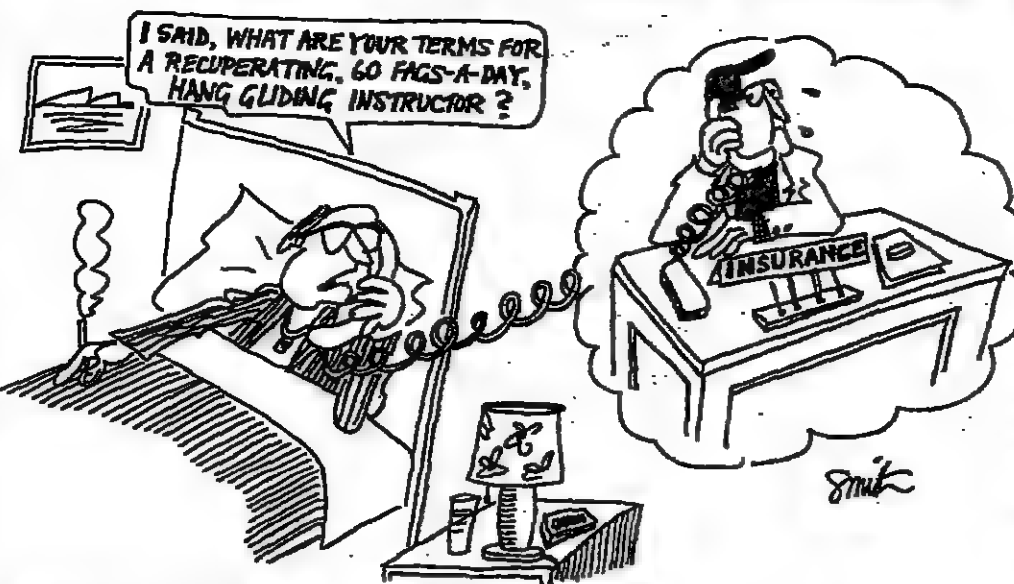
Seeing through the salesman's patter

With tax relief on life-assurance premiums a thing of the past, the salesmen will be scratching around for a new selling point. TOM TICKELL, who will be writing a regular column for *The Times*, takes a lighthearted look at how to deter the more persistent of the breed.

Thousands of people buy life insurance every year but insurance salesmen have all but disappeared nowadays. They have been replaced by financial planners, financial advisers and, until the Budget, even by tax-saving specialists. Since the Chancellor swept away tax relief on new policies, that last title should have gone. But the others, implying everything and meaning nothing, are almost everywhere.

Admittedly insurance brokers sell life insurance and theirs is the one title with any legal force. They are committed to offering contracts not just from one company but from a whole range. But people aware of the distinction at least know something of the subject, and are the group best able to look after their own interests.

The salesmen, whatever their verbal flag of convenience, always stress that they have been on training courses. That is true, but does not necessarily mean much. Two journalists from *Which*, the Consumers' Association magazine, enrolled on a course to find that they and the other trainees were selling life insurance four days later.



having come in from the cold with no financial knowledge. Courses can differ but the stress is usually just as much on learning how to sell, as it is on life insurance.

Admittedly, if you are lazy about getting organized, poor life insurance is better than none at all. You will be lucky if you get a clear picture of all the options because salesmen earn far more from selling one kind of contract than another.

But they have a great gift for picking people who are adequately insured, whose only desire is to be rid of them. The best way to do that is to know your enemy's technique. The salesmen's first move is to ring out of the blue, announcing that they want to help with your

financial problems. Alternatively, they are doing a survey about inflation, which leads gradually, but inevitably, to the conclusion that you need to protect yourself against it via life insurance.

Most consultants, advisers or whatever will give a choice of two or three separate times on different days when you can meet. The idea is to shift the question from whether you actually want to see him to when you can find a suitable date.

They are persistent - hardly surprising when almost all of them have to live entirely on commission. One way to cool their ardour is to ensure that you sound such an appalling proposition that no company would possibly take you on its books.

"I'm going hang gliding for two hours on that first date," you announce cheerfully. "I've put on a lot of weight recently - and I make a point of playing squash every six months or so. Normally I get no exercise at all. Date three is our because I'm off to see the doctor about a sharp rise in my blood pressure."

That combination should put you top of the mortality pops and the consultant should be off the line before you have a chance to tell him how heavily you smoke.

Otherwise you face a battle of wills: One man rang me two years ago announcing himself as a member of the financial caring profession, concerned to see people did well for themselves. I was not struck by his

flexible multi-option savings facility - a unit-linked insurance policy in PR-speak - and after ten minutes brisk argument, he got the message.

"Please give me the names of five or six of your friends, so that I can help them as I have helped you," he remarked before leaving.

Getting an appointment is the salesman's first great hurdle. But even if he wins that battle, you have not lost the war. Many a consultant will tell you - a tear in his eye and a lie on his lips - about the couple he went to see three months earlier. The husband agreed to take out life insurance but never got round to signing the form. He died suddenly and his wife rang to announce that, whatever her miseries, the children would not suffer because he was insured.

"Alas, I had the terrible job of telling her he wasn't."

No widow ever complained that her husband had too much life insurance goes the follow-up. The consultant will usually stick to endowment policies. They certainly insure your life but also aim to provide you with a large lump sum if you survive the 10 or 15 years term of the policy.

He will outline various ways of using that money when it arrives - for a new house, for paying school fees, or looking

after yourselves in old age. At some point your eyes will give a telltale glint and the salesman will know he has hit the hot button - as it is known to the trade.

A mass of graphs will then appear showing just how well you would have done if you had started investing your £20 or £30 each month 10 years ago, and were due to take out the cash today. But even the most incompetent investment manager could hardly fail to have made a profit over the past 10 years. Stockbrokers remember 1974 and particularly early 1975 with horror. Prices plummeted downwards and city odds against the collapse of one high street bank were only five to four against.

Life is very different now. Share prices are at their highest level ever and the air of euphoria is almost worrying. People who started policies a decade ago stepped on to an escalator that moved steadily upwards. There is no guarantee that the movement will be the same way now.

Meanwhile, tax relief gave a 15 per cent subsidy and that currency boosted the figures. Its disappearance may actually edge Britain towards the American pattern where life insurance is about insuring your life rather than avoiding tax.

Salesmen there have been known to carry little silver coffins in their lapels to remind prospect customers of what it is all about, when all else fails, one last-ditch technique has been known to work wonders. They gaze at the obligatory picture of the children on the mantelpiece, shake their heads and murmur, "Sorry, kids". It usually brings out a chequebook in a microsecond.

Even so, no American life insurance salesman has to travel under a pseudonym to conceal what he does. They are licensed by each state, having to pass exams which ensure they have expertise before starting. Professor Gower's report suggested that the same system should appear in Britain, and the sooner the better.

For the moment, some insurers rely in simple faith. The chairman of one life company was asked recently if his salesmen would always recommend the right policy, even if they lost money by doing so. "Certainly", he replied. "We have half an hour's course in ethics as part of our training programme..."

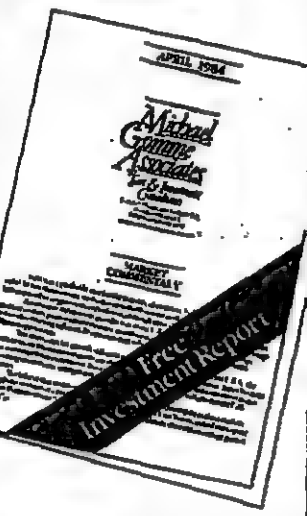
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Time-sharing Holiday variety on points

Leaders in the holiday time-share field, Hapimag, has now been running as a non-profit-making organization with 30,000 time-share owners, £50m assets and 1,500 apartments and chalets throughout Europe, for 21 years.

Unlike other time shares where you buy a fixed couple of weeks in a particular apartment, Hapimag owners are allocated points which are traded in against rental on any property in the Hapimag stable. Different apartments rate different numbers of points and high season

bookings use up more points than off peak dates.

One time-share unit costs about £1,365 for which you are allocated 12 holiday points a year. This will give you the right to use an apartment or chalet for two to six people for about a week, depending on the season. You can save the holiday points for five years, or even draw on them a year in advance.

Details from Hapimag Corner International, Oranec House, Fairview Road, Timperley, Cheshire WA15 7AR. LB

Letters

'Unearned' injustice for wives

From Mr DG Lindsay

Sir, I really must challenge you over your statement that there was now no difference between the treatment of "earned" and "unearned" income (Family Money, March 17). You have obviously forgotten the case of the poor married woman whose only income is from her investments. Due to aggregation, the whole of this income will almost certainly be taxed at 30 per cent, and might be taxed at 60 per cent, whereas if it were "earned", or if the poor woman had been single, it would be subject to a much lower rate, or might even be tax-free.

Now that, at last, we have a Chancellor who can recognize an anomaly, injustice or distortion when he sees one, or when it is pointed out to him, could you not use your undoubted "clout" in the tax world to get this injustice put right, eg, by allowing married women to elect for separate taxation in respect of their "investment" income as well as their "earned" income (if any).

Yours faithfully
DG Lindsay
36 Orchard Coombe
Whitechurch Hill
Reading

Medical sickness

Our article on pension-linked mortgages last week carried a cable showing comparative performances of various pension plans. The figures for Medical Sickness were not directly comparable with the figures shown for other offices because these pensions continue to participate in profits after vesting. The bonus declared December 31, 1983, was 7.25 per cent compound, plus a special bonus to mark the society's centenary.

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How to invest Simply complete and send off the application form with your remittance. This will be acknowledged within three days, and your unit certificate normally sent within six weeks. You can sell back your units at any time at the bid price ruling on receipt of your instructions.

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Managers Wardley Unit Trust Managers Limited, Wardley House, 7 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4HN. Telephone: 01-625 4411. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

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Wardley
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1st	10	FT Pensions Handbook	Feb 1983
6th	5	FT Pensions Handbook	Feb 1983
1st	10	Financial Times	Jan 1984

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RUGBY UNION: DECISION AND REACTION AS EXPECTED

RFU vote by a big majority for tour of South Africa

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The Rugby Football Union, consistent as ever in their traditional friendships and in their stated policy of playing rugby football "against anyone, regardless of race, colour or creed and in any country with which our country has normal diplomatic relations", confirmed yesterday that they will accept an invitation to send an England team to South Africa in May.

The RFU committee, meeting at the London Hilton hotel, voted for the tour by 44 to six, with Ron Jacobs, the president, abstaining. Three committee members were unable to be present for the two-hour discussion, which produced a widely anticipated conclusion. It also produced a widely anticipated reaction from anti-apartheid groups. Bishop Trevor Huddleston, president of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, said he was "shocked and angered", and Sam Ramsamy, spokesman for the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (SANROC), said his organization would be "very disappointed" if the tour went ahead. "I am confident that the trade unions will make their departure as difficult as possible. I know that Commonwealth governments and sporting organizations will make it very clear that English sport will pay a very high price if this tour goes ahead."

Bishop Huddleston has also written to Mrs Thatcher asking her to meet the RFU and "convey to them your personal desire that they reconsider their decision." He quotes as a precedent the intervention made by President Mitterrand when the French Rugby Federation intended to fulfill a tour in South Africa last year. That tour did not go ahead, but Albert Ferrasse, the federation president, has since declared his intention of sending a team to South Africa in two years' time.

Sir Shridath Ramphal, Commonwealth secretary-general, said it was not too late for the RFU to change their minds and cancel the tour. But the decision having been taken, the Union - are unlikely to be swayed, and Mr Jacobs said as much. It will be no consolation to the RFU that their colleagues on the Welsh Rugby Union are having their own problems: they are to meet representatives of the Mid-Glamorgan County Council to discuss the threat of council sanctions against teams involving South Africans.

Ironically, Neil Macfarlane, the Minister for Sport, who has had the task on the Government's behalf, of discouraging the RFU from touring, was at another rugby function yesterday, the concluding day of the Rosslyn Park schools' seven tournament, where only the playing surface muddled the issue.

Mr Macfarlane said: "I'm obviously disappointed but not altogether surprised by the RFU committee's decision. This is a free country and ultimately it is for the RFU to decide."

When you take decision in life you often upset people. We didn't set out to upset anyone. We are not deliberately being controversial.

The RFU have received requests from four overseas unions, Fiji (who toured England and Scotland in 1982), Jamaica, Bermuda and the Bahamas, not to tour and they will be taking what they describe as "prudent measures" against attempted disruption or representative games at Twickenham during the remainder of the season. Players who may be asked to tour have not yet been specifically approached about their availability, though soundings have been taken. When the itinerary has been confirmed, within the next week, the selectors will discuss the party. By then England squad members may also have received a letter from Bishop Huddleston asking them if "in all conscience they can contemplate playing in the land of apartheid."

Following the debate today the committee of the RFU has decided to proceed with the tour of South Africa later this year as scheduled in the IRFB (International Rugby Football Board) programme of tours for member unions and in line with the policy which the RFU has followed consistently in visiting South Africa in 1972 and in support of Lions tours in 1974 and 1980 with the other home unions.

No itinerary has yet been worked out for the tour but it is expected to encompass seven matches, including two international, against teams picked on a multi-racial basis. In the longer term it will offer encouragement to New Zealand to proceed with a tour to South Africa next year and to the Lions, who are scheduled to visit the republic in 1986.

Mr Jacobs said the committee felt their decision should not affect other sporting organizations, particularly those of which the RFU was not a member, nor did they regard it as an insult to black sportsmen in this country. "We believe contact in this context is more profitable, more constructive, than leaving people out in the cold."

"When you take decision in life you often upset people. We didn't set out to upset anyone. We are not deliberately being controversial." (Photograph: Tony Weaver)



Keeping it clean: Bamford of Rossall requires some assistance from the referee (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Another Ampleforth cup to carry the Willcox hallmark

By Peter Marson

Ampleforth wrote a glowing chapter into the history of the National Schools seven-a-side tournament on Rosslyn Park's swamp at Roehampton yesterday, when they beat a gallant seven from Rossall in the final of the Festival competition by two goals and a try to a try.

It was Ampleforth's third triumph in a row, Presiding on the Most Bros and Bedford Modern old boys' challenge cup, Neil Macfarlane, secretary of state for the environment, paid tribute to the part played in their successes by John Willcox, formerly of Harlequins and England, and master-in-charge of rugby over the last decade.

Ampleforth's seven bore the stamp common to all of Willcox's sides in that an overall competence and skill was apparent whether they were back pedalling - in this case padding - or going forward and probing in attack. Carvill was their general, as well as their captain, and at all times played with great test. Ampleforth led 10-0 at half time through tries by Anthony Brown and Schulte, the second of which Carvill converted. In the second period Schulte scored again and Galle ran in a well-deserved try.

Rossall: P. Galle, M. Bamford, K. Schulte, I. Hobbins, P. Gately, C. Kay, A. Chambers. Ampleforth: J. Schulte, A. Brown, M. Butler, S. Carvill, C. Gally, P. Brown, C. Connelley, R. Morris, J. M. Jones, J. M. Jones.

Somerset weakened by three withdrawals

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Gloucestershire and Somerset, who contest the final of the county championship, sponsored by Thorn EMI, at Twickenham today, have walked a tightrope on the way to Gloucestershire, the favourites in this competition, whatever the formula, won by three points against Northampton and one against Middlesex. The same margins separated Somerset from Lancashire and Middlesex, and in the semi-final, they beat Yorkshire with a hotly disputed drop goal.

Neither county could be said, therefore, to have taken a decisive grip upon the competition and Somerset's chances of winning it for the first time in 61 years have been weakened by the enforced withdrawal, through injury, of three players: Hill is replaced at scrum half by his Bath colleague, Stanley; Cunningham by another Bath hooker, Bess; and Williams, the Bristol wing, is replaced by Simmonds.

Thus 14 of the side are from the Bath club, the exception being the solid Bristol lock, Stiff, engagingly known to his friends as "Biff". There will be a compact look to the side, which served the club well when they were outscored in the John Player Cup by Wasps, yet won the day by the wit and vision of their backs, among whom Horton was the key figure.

Gloucestershire, I suspect, will exert even more pressure on a comparatively small pack and this, in turn, will be transmitted to Stanley, if their possession is disrupted at source, Somerset will find it hard to survive, whatever the key figure.

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Couples goes two up and sets course record

From Mitchell Plaats, Ponte Vedra, Florida

It has become a familiar feature of the 1984 United States golf tour for a player to spring out of the pack and win a title with a sparkling last round. Even so, Fred Couples set such a furious pace early on, the second day of the Tournament Players' Championship at the Players' Club at Sawgrass that a number of players were in danger of losing touch.

In the end, Couples set a new record for the course with a 64 which gave him a 36-hole aggregate of 135. Jim Thorpe, who led after the opening round, had a 69 to be on 137, while Severiano Ballesteros stayed in contention with a 68 for 138.

Couples, who won the Kemper Open last year, started his round by driving into the trees to drop a shot at the first. However, he holed from 12 feet for a birdie at the long second and he watched in delight as an 80-yard wedge shot at the 360-yard fourth went into the cup for an eagle two. At the seventh and eighth, he holed from seven feet and 30 feet to reach the turn in 32, and he continued to make exciting progress by collecting three birdies in his next four holes.

Couples has the record this season for the longest drive on the tour, as awesome 337 yards in Hawaii, and so it was inevitable that three of his nine birdies should come at par fives. His only mistake during an immaculate round came at the last, where a wayward drive cost him a shot.

Ballesteros made a series of errors early on and was compelled to save pars on no fewer than four occasions in the first eight holes by getting up and down from bunkers. Nevertheless he emphasized that his game is steadily coming together again by hitting a superb third shot into the ninth (582 yards) which covered the stick the entire way, to set up a birdie and take him to the turn in 35. The Spaniard, striding purposefully along the fairway, had birdies at the twelfth, sixteenth and seventeenth holes to complete his 68.

Ballesteros drove well throughout the round, and with a little more fortune on the greens he might have finished closer to Couples. Nevertheless, he had the satisfaction of making a two at the island seventeenth (132 yards) where no less than 64 balls finished in the water in the first round.

Thorpe, who on the opening day did not drop a single shot, kept the record intact by playing the first 10 holes yesterday in level par.

At the eleventh (329 yards), however, he finally broke. It is today in that this is an event run along round robin lines.

Anthony Hunting, son of John Hunting, who will referee football's FA Cup Final in May, became the first player in the Saab junior series to lose a match on a penalty game yesterday.

In his opening match with Neil Pashley, of Surrey, in the 16-and-under finals at Bramhall, Hunting was first warned for "racket abuse" in the second set then the tournament referee, Nick McCallen, issued him with a penalty point in the seventh game of the third set. On the first point of the third set tie-break, Hunting gave tongue to an "audible obscenity" after failing to return a heavily spun service from Pashley and was declared the deciding game.

Pashley, the younger player by close on a year, was at once awarded the match, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6. However, since Hunting was not actually defaulted, he will have the chance to do something to repair his reputation.

Banco Roma win through when all seemed lost. Genoa (Reuters) - Banco Roma achieved a third successive Italian victory in the European men's basketball Champion Clubs' Cup when they beat Barcelona 79-73 in the final here on Thursday.

The Spanish club seemed to be coasting to a comfortable win when they led 42-32 at half-time, and in a complete dominance till half-way through the second session, when they were leading 53-33. But a dazzling burst of power-play masterminded by Carry Wright, Banco's American import, saw the Italians level at 56-all with 10 minutes to the final whistle.

The Italian fans in the packed 8,000 capacity stadium erupted as the slightly-built Wright toyed with the Barcelona defence. He put Banco in front for the first time, 59-58, with 10 minutes to go and scored again in the next 10 seconds. Barcelona fought back, but seemed to have run out of steam. They managed to close the gap to 73-75 but failed to reverse their earlier superiority.

Hawick out to regain the title. Last season Hawick, who since the Second World War have dominated the Scottish season suffered an ignominious setback. They were beaten into the runners-up position in the National League by Gala, and that is rather like saying that Liverpool were beaten into second place by Everton.

Hawick, who managed to gather only the occasional title in the old days of the so-called unofficial championships, and who did not start to build a side until around 1960, have made the official championship almost their own. Even more difficult to accept, but true, is that, uniquely in Scotland, they have done it with only one XV, and without calling on players who have no connexion with the town.

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Paris	f	9 48	Valencia	f	1 11
Peking	f	13 55	Vancouver	s	1 11
Perth	s	22 81	Venice	c	1 11
Prague	sn	1 34	Vienne	f	4 11
Rijnsdijk	c	3 37	Warsaw	c	15 11
Rhodes			Washington	r	4 11
Riyadh	s	29 84	Zurich	g	8 11

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